

# **U. S. GOLD FIVE DOLLAR OR HALF EAGLE 1807-1838**

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Volume #2.

Second Edition.

78,911,869 pieces struck 1795-1929.

Over 643 varieties & die states.

Many pedigrees, Patterns & Trial pieces, counterfeits listed.

WB's observations vetted. Compiled from his records, accompanied with his source material shown, for historical purposes only.



The co(i)n industry can be explained herein. Doctrin-a -ae are never complete due to the vast mintages. In addition, entropy in a closed system and in concert with the Boltzman equation. New discoveries, corrected errors. See Introduction 1795-1807.

RARITIES IN THE LIGHT OF COMMON SENSE

Walter Breen  
Vice President, FCI

Every so often it is worthwhile to return to the paramount, perennial questions: How rare is this date? Are there a couple of dozen, a couple of hundred, a couple of thousand, or a couple of million around? Do the price scales in the red book and the gray sheet reflect auction performance, or dealers' wishful thinking, or sheer guesswork?

Constant dealer repetition of "Very Rare," "Extremely Rare" --or even "Excessively Rare"--has generated, on the one hand, a vast collection of erroneous ideas, and on the other hand a cynical skepticism of all similar claims. Even after nearly forty years, Dr. Sheldon's pungent comment still applies: "Numismatics ... has always had its shady fringe of unscrupulous dealers--men who exaggerate condition, rarity, and value when they sell, and understate some or all of these when they buy. These men depend on a large turnover in the collector population, with a resulting continuous supply of suckers. ... Dealers' dreams do sometimes get into print."

(*Early American Cents*, pp. 29, 35.)

The very first thing to keep in mind, therefore, is that between actual rarity and price the relationship is never as clear-cut as economics textbooks would lead you to believe.

Part of the reason is in the nomenclature. Strictly speaking,

rare means that only a limited number of collectible specimens exist. The definition is unavoidably vague: how many is "a limited number"? This is partly why Sheldon insisted on making his 8-point rarity scale quantitative, from R-1 "common" to R-8 "unique or nearly unique--not over 3 in collectors' hands." Its automatic limitations: 1) often the actual number extant cannot be known with certainty; 2) dealers using such estimates are under pressure--by their own greed and their consignors'--to exaggerate. Most conspicuously, this occurs when a coin was listed long ago as R-7 ("4 to 12 known") but continues to be so listed after a dozen more have turned up.

This is partly why the so-called law of supply and demand does not work in the coin market. Nor can any attempt to modify its mathematical formulation make it work. Incompleteness and varying delays in diffusion of essential updated information are only part of the reason; there are many ad hoc exceptions in each denomination. Price levels on these vary more with publicity than with actual numbers known. Information that could affect price levels is also often manipulated by those in a position to determine the timing of publicity. The more often you are told that this or that date is rare, the more likely you are to believe it.

even when new specimens are continuing to appear. The more the market for a particular series is manipulated, the more likely that the publicity will stimulate demand.

The way this usually works: a few dealers hoard individual issues or series, publish offers to buy while temporarily offering none for sale, make certain that the buy offers get into the gray sheet; then, after enough others have begun imitating them, especially if the new prices have affected the red book, they unload. A few months later the process repeats with a different series. Your only recourse in this game is to learn the truth about each series. Then you can decide whether to buy a particular series now, or later, or not at all.

In the following sections, I propose to go through the entire series of federal coinages (half cents to double eagles and comemoratives), checking for alleged rarity. In the process, a few balloons are inevitably going to be punctured, and some other issues will show up as rarer than formerly believed. Hitherto unpublished data are from my *Encyclopedia of U.S. Coins* (Doubleday, in press). As that book deals entirely with major varieties (those in which at least one letter punch, numeral punch, larger design element, or layout, differs from other coins of the same type), rather than minor (positional) varieties, I shall follow the same procedure here.

HALF CENT

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## INTRODUCTION 1795-1929

### UNITED STATES HALF EAGLES 1795-1929

by Walter Breen

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#### INTRODUCTION

The present study is, so far as I know, the first attempt at a systematic description of types and varieties of this denomination beyond the first few years. Like most ~~previous attempts~~ initial attempts, it will presumably prove incomplete. And once again, as with the gold dollars and quarter eagles, I urge collectors having varieties not listed herein to contact me so that the subsequent booklet publication will be more nearly complete. I have attempted, however, ~~even~~ more than with the smaller denominations, to cover as many as possible of the important auctions. As the Mint's principal business for many decades consisted of manufacturing cents, half dollars, and half eagles, a larger number of different dies and combinations were naturally used on these three denominations than on others, and new discoveries were being made until the very last few days--so it is entirely likely that others remain to be described. One of the difficulties in study of this series is that until recent years many of the early dates were not considered worth illustrating in auction catalogues. Another is that the die differences after 1799 are often very minute. Still another is that many collectors have been content to own only one of a date, and comprehensive variety collections have been very few. The high cost of each piece, especially between about 1813 and 1834 with motto, has also discouraged variety collecting.

Nevertheless, a few courageous though very incomplete attempts exist, and I have drawn extensively on them for data here presented. More of these deal with the single date 1795 than any other, perhaps because this date is unusually rich in varieties whose differences are noticeable to the naked eye. I list these references below.



N. Waldo Newcomer's inventory, based largely on descriptions of each successive variety furnished him by Edgar H. Adams, ca. 1914-1933. I have the Newcomer numbers only for the early dates--nothing after 1834<sup>8</sup>--and not completely even here.

ANS-W. Very incomplete list of varieties in the Woodin loan, Exhibition of U.S. and Colonial Coins, American Numismatic Society, Jan.-Feb. 1914.

Woodin. Two incomplete typescripts of variety descriptions between 1795 and 1834 (ca. 1909?), by William H. Woodin. These are superseded by the Adams list in CGJ for at least the period 1795-1803.

Clapp. The John H. ~~Clapp~~ Clapp notebooks, now in possession of Louis Eliasberg. Comprehensive variety descriptions between 1795 and 1839, with notes on the later issues. Assembled sometime between 1904? and 1940 or thereabouts. Clapp's collection was sold to Eliasberg, complete, and one set of duplicates went at auction as the "H.M.R. Lee" collection in 1947, another as part of the New Netherlands 49th sale in 1957.

Adams. Edgar H. Adams was preparing a die variety study of half-eagles, probably intending to cover the period 1795-1834, during the early 1930's. Installments covering 1795-1803 appeared in the 1934-35 Coin Collectors Journal (published by the late Wayte Raymond). Adams's illness prevented further installments from appearing. His notebooks, now preserved in ANS, add little to what has already been published. Clapp corresponded with Adams and the two men seem to have exchanged variety information on some dates.

Mabbott. Professor Thomas Ollive Mabbott, in Numismatic Review 2,1:10ff (July 1944), listed varieties of the 1795 half eagle based on eighteen specimens in the Colonel Green collection, purchased by Stacks in 1943.



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In addition, I have derived information from <sup>nearby five</sup> ~~over three~~ hundred major (and a larger number of minor) auction sale catalogues. Of these the following were rich enough in die varieties to rate special mention here: Melish (1956), WGC [World's Greatest Collection], i.e. that of F.C.C. Boyd (1945), Baldenhofer (1955), New Netherlands 49th and 55th auctions (1957 and 1960).

Basic research on this series has consisted, also, of going through over 120,000 documents in the ~~NATL~~ National Archives (1951-53), including monthly ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ reports from each branch mint, internal records of each branch mint, and internal records of the Philadelphia Mint. For information on the proof coinages of the early 1860's, derived from Archives documents not yet inventoried during my visits but only subsequently sent to the Archives from the Philadelphia Mint, I publicly thank R.W. Julian.

# # #

When our nation's Founding Fathers were deciding on the nature and nomenclature of a distinctively American monetary unit, during the 1780's, one of their tasks ~~was~~ was to make this unit in some way consonant with British and Spanish money. The proposal made by Thomas Jefferson as an alternative to the complicated (but in many ways superior) Morris plan included a gold 10-unit piece intended to contain ~~which~~ 243  $\frac{1}{3}$  grains of fine gold. The Grand Committee of Congress in 1785 introduced names for some of these proposed coins; in particular, the ten-dollar piece was to bear an eagle design and be named the "eagle", and this term in fact first appears in the Board of Treasury report of 1786.

In April 1790 the House of Representatives ordered Alexander Hamilton, the then Secretary of Treasury, to draw up plans for a mint including a coinage system conformable to the one authorized by earlier resolutions of Congress. Hamilton's report, submitted in January 1791, recommended among many other things that the gold unit ~~be~~ con-



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sist of 24.75 grains of pure gold per dollar, or that the ten dollar piece or eagle <sup>contain</sup> ~~weigh~~  $247\frac{1}{2}$  grains of pure gold. Since the British and Spanish standards of fineness was  $11/12$ , Hamilton recommended for coins of gold and silver a proportion of eleven parts pure metal to one part alloy. This yielded a ten-dollar piece weighing 270 grains of gold,  $916\frac{2}{3}$  fine. Exactly this standard of weight and fineness was adopted in the Mint Act of April 12, 1792, which has served as the basis of all subsequent coinage legislation in the United States.

The 1792 Mint Act, however, included a coin not mentioned in earlier proposals, namely the half eagle or five-dollar piece. Why this natural unit had been omitted by Jefferson is unknown. It proved in the end, if anything, more convenient even than the eagle itself, being very close in size, weight and therefore value to the British guinea, as well as to numerous other European gold coins of the period.

The earliest United States attempt at coinage of a half eagle yielded nothing more than two copper trial pieces from dies ascribed on good stylistic grounds to Jean-Pierre Droz, Swiss engraver in the employ of Boulton & Watt. These historic pieces--long misdescribed as cents--are listed as Adams-Woodin 12. One remains in the Smithsonian Institution; ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ it weighs  $175\frac{1}{2}$  grains and was apparently poorly cleaned decades ago. The other, weighing  $179\frac{1}{2}$  grains, first appeared in Edward Cogan's auction of April 1863, lot 1074, and was subsequently in the Bushnell, Parmelee, Brand, and Dr. Judd collections. Major Lenox Elzohr owned a pewter impression from these dies, and there are a couple of uniface trials in pewter or white metal. The Dr. Judd copper specimen is pictured in the Yeoman Guidebook, the other in Adams-Woodin and the Standard Catalogue.

Because Albion Cox and Henry Voigt had as yet not qualified for their Mint duties by giving bond of \$10,000 apiece, no silver nor gold coins could be legally issued from the mint; and as a result



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no silver ~~was~~ in fact coined until late in 1794 (1758 silver dollars on October 15, 5300 halves on December 1), and no gold until 1795.

The earliest gold coins of the United States, the half-eagles and eagles of 1795, conform exactly to the Mint Act of 1792 in design, though they make no attempt to copy Droz's simple dies of 1792, save in lacking any mark of denomination. The lack of marks of denomination was characteristic of world gold and silver coins of the period, and apparently stems from common mercantile practice of valuing coins of the precious metals only as so much bullion, the coins passing by weight rather than "by tale" (i.e. by ~~the~~ the piece). From all that I have been able to learn, Robert Scot was the designer for these gold coins of 1795. ~~Liberty~~ Miss Liberty--an unusually buxom wench even for early American coins, and one with a profile quite different from the classical one usually found--wears a cap commonly misidentified as the Liberty cap or Phrygian cap. ~~It is~~ It is, in fact, based instead on one of the fashionable headdresses of the day (according to Eckfeldt: cf. the letter of Samuel Moore, Director of the Mint, to Thomas Jefferson, Feb. 14, 1825, quoted below under 1807).

The reverses of these gold coins of 1795 derive from a First Century B.C. Roman onyx cameo in the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna, of the same period as the famous Gemma Augustea and possibly by the same master. On this cameo--No. 4 in Eichler-Kris's catalogue of antique cameos in this museum, No. 166 in the traveling Army exhibit known as the Vienna Collections, ca. 1948-50--the eagle stands to right, rather than breast outwards, but it agrees with Scot's design for our gold coins in having the eagle standing on a palm branch and holding a circular wreath in his beak, his wings outstretched.

Much confusion over numbers of varieties~~es~~ for this year has tended to discourage collectors from attempting anything like complete sets of varieties. There are, in fact, only eight obverses and <sup>1795 half eagle</sup> ~~eight~~ <sup>nine</sup> ~~eight~~

*small eagle*

*p6*

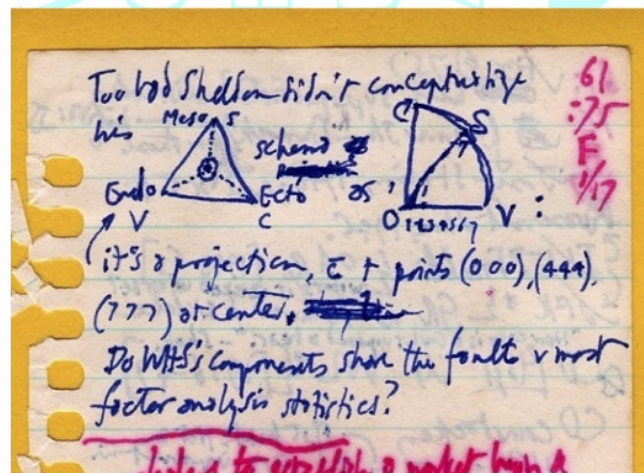
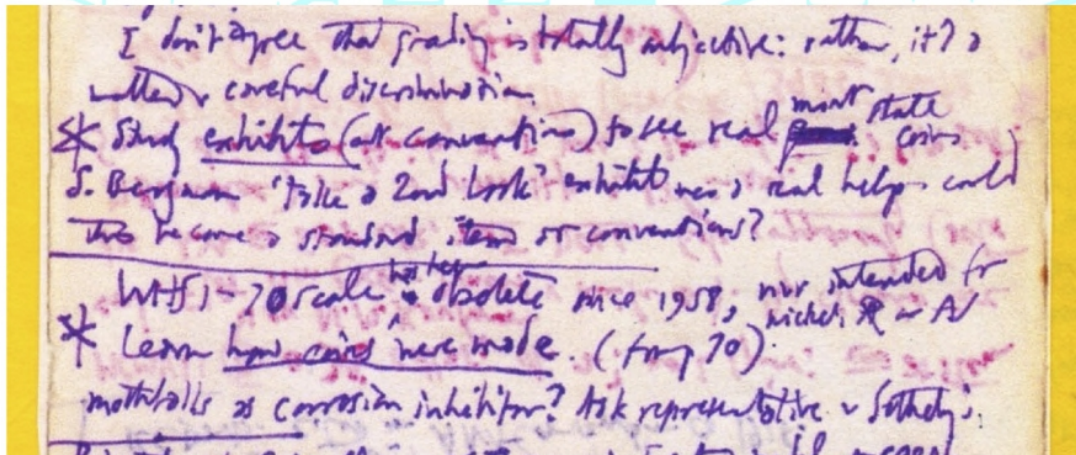
reverses, in twelve mulings, and these mulings fall logically into two distinct groups without overlapping. The first six have comparatively wide dates, with first star entirely below lowest curl; the remaining six have comparatively close dates, with first star entirely to left of lowest curl. Of the twelve varieties with the small or naturalistic eagle, only two are prohibitively rare. (I am deferring the whole question of the heraldic eagle 1795's for the moment, as these coins were definitely struck in 1797 or 1798, probably the latter, and require considerable explanation.)

Die break evidence and stylistic evidence make it possible to establish a rational emission order for these twelve varieties beyond any reasonable doubt. As this sequence differs markedly from those presented by Adams, Clapp, Newcomer, Woodin, Mabbott, or other cataloguers, I have had to use my own numbering, though the Adams, Clapp and other numbers will be used as equivalents or references, in much the same way as Sheldon used the Hays, Doughty, Clapp and Newcomb numbers as equivalents in his cent book.

We can now proceed to variety descriptions for this year.



## Grading.



**Fine:** Major folds of cap show; eye complete, ear partly intact, motto weak but complete, partial wing-feather details.

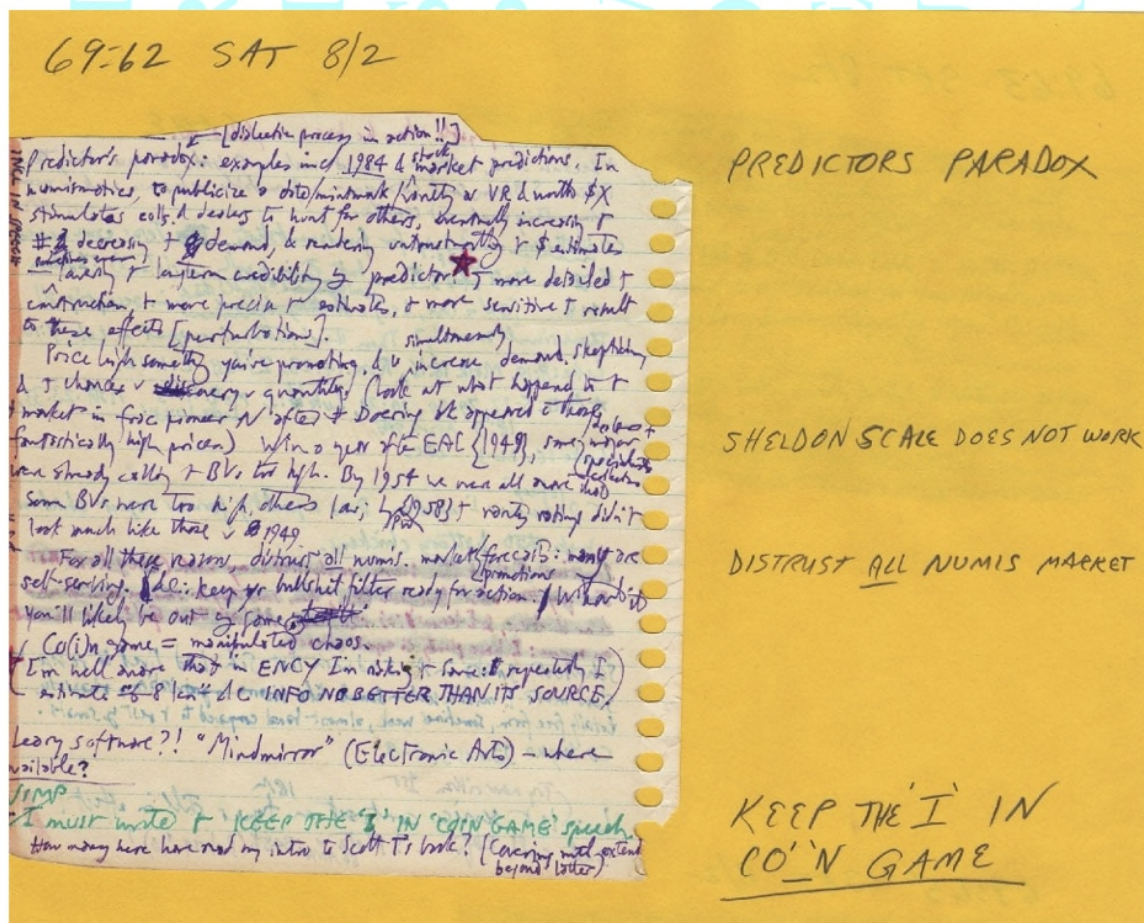
**Very Fine:** Over half hair & wing-feather details; most shield lines clear; partial leg & neck-feather details.

**Extremely Fine:** Isolated tiny spots of wear only; partial mint luster.

**Uncirculated:** No trace of wear.

See below for survival averages.





NB 17:71. NB 61:75. NB 69:62.

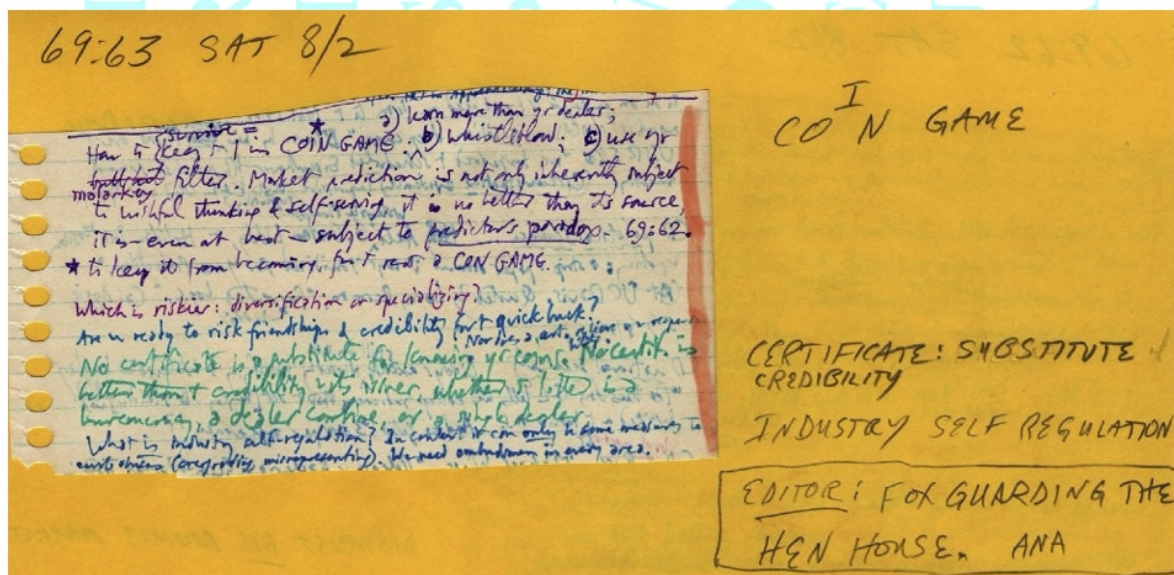
Numerical Grading problems in detail, see Glossary.

How coins are made, see gold Bibliography Dies and Coinage WB {1965}.

NB 65:56 I've cat'd coins for > 30 years. T # grade system orig. based on price lvls for 1794 c[ent], later generalized, now standardized!

Misc. note: Ballpark survival rates: \$5 < ~ 1812: 0.5-2%? higher for 1795. 1813-6/34 < 0.1%-2% 1815 saved?

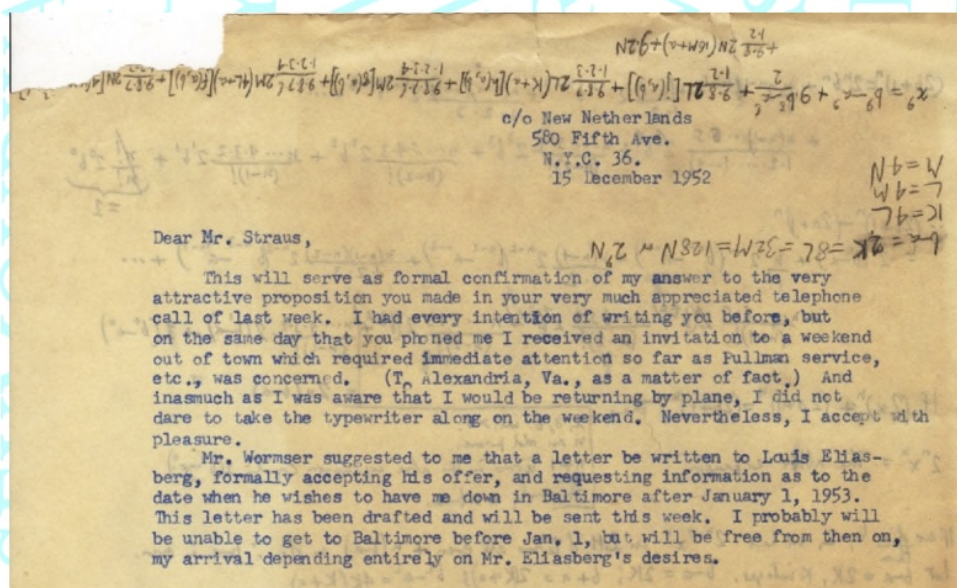




NB 69:63-8.

Unlike later gold coins, the vast majority of specimens of this design will grade Extremely Fine or About Uncirculated.

**Eliasberg collection invitation.**



**Ltr: Breen to Eliasberg and reply.**

Box 1032 : Berkeley 1, Calif.  
19 Nov. 1964

Dear Mr. Kilsberg:

I am on the verge of completing my variety study of half eagles, based in part on your extensive collection of this denomination, and need from you a few minor items of pedigree information, the better to establish accurate variety data. I am sure that your knowledge of varieties, and mistakes, Your answers will be very greatly appreciated. They may be done by number as I retain a card copy of the letter--saving you time in the reply.

1. 1797 17 stars, small eagle. Has yours wide date or close date?  
Wide date has 9 7 apart; close date has 97 practically touching.  
as this from Clapp, and any earlier collection?

2. 1797 16 stars, small eagle. Source?

3. 1797 normal date, 16 stars, heraldic eagle. Only one is reported--the Woodin, Newcomer, Green, G.H.Hall, Haldeholder coin (181200). Do you have this piece or another one, or do you lack the variety?

4. 1797/99, heraldic eagle. There are two varieties:  
Adams 4--"ber." mated at five stars at right; rev. berry above center of C, slant this, and often with crack through right upright of M into wing.  
5--"cer. berry over left curve of C, and none of these cracks.  
Which have you?

5. 1810 Small date small 5. Do you own this? Source?

6. 1810 ~~Small~~ Large date, small 5. Have you this? Source?

~~7. 1810 Small date small 5. Do you own this? Source?~~

~~8. 1810 Small date small 5. Do you own this? Source?~~

MC 1826. Two varieties exist. (a) The usual one with 17th star practically touching curl. (b) Jenks 5760, with 17th star far away from curl.  
Have you the (b) variety? Source of whichever you do have?

9. 1827. Is yours from Clapp? Earlier source?

10. 1828 normal date. Two varieties: (a) First star very close to bust. (b) First star quite distant from bust. (Dumas 2107) Which one have you? Source?

11. 1829 Type I. Source of yours? Clapp and where?

12. 1829 Type II. Source of yours?

13. 1830. Has yours large or small 5? Source?

14. 1831. Has yours large or small D in 5? Source?

15. 1832 flat head 2, 13 stars. Source?

16. 1841 O. Do you see this date? Is it the Woodin-Newcomer-Green-Jarouk-Pittman coin? (If not, it is probably the H.L.Spence coin.)

17. 1866 H no motto. Condition of yours? Source?

18. 1870 CO. Condition of yours? Source?

19. 1908 liberty head. This was supposed to be in the Woodin collection in brilliant proof. Have you a pair?

20. 1916 without mintmark showing, probably weak or filled S, comparable to the mintmark on 1922 plan coins. Have you one of these?

My wife just gave birth to Patrick Russell Brown, 8 lbs. 9 oz., on Halloween; mother and baby are doing fine.

Thank you very much,

THE FINANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA

## COMMERCIAL BANKERS

MUNSEY BUILDING

BALTIMORE 3, Md.

December 3, 1964

Mr. Walter Breen  
Box 1032  
Berkeley 1, California

Dear Mr. Breen:

Complying with your recent request I am listing below the information which you requested with respect to the Half Eagles. The references are the ones which you furnished when you inspected the collection in 1953.

- |                                 |                                    |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 - From Clapp - not in C - A3  | 11 - Cl - Clapp (H. P. Smith)      |
| 2 - From Clapp                  | 12 - C2 - Clapp                    |
| 3 - We do not have this variety | 13 - Jg. 5D Cl Clapp (Mumford sale |
| 4 - A5 - Clapp (Kerle?)         | 6/1896 - also Sm. 5 D C2 -         |
| 5 - Our Tall 5 - C2 - Clapp     | Clapp (Kerle)                      |
| 6 - Cl - Clapp - Seara 4/1910   | 14 - We have both C1 - N123 and    |
| 7 - Cl - Clapp (W. P. Brown)    | C2 - N122 from Clapp               |
| 8 - C1 - Clapp                  | 15 - Sq. base 2, C1 - Clapp (H. P. |
| 9 - C2 - Clapp (H. P. Smith)    | Smith)                             |
| 10 - C2 - Clapp (H. P. Smith)   | 16 - No                            |
|                                 | 17 - V.G. - Clapp                  |
|                                 | 18 - V.P. - Clapp                  |
|                                 | 19 - Uncirculated                  |
|                                 | 20 - Curs 1916-S                   |

I note that you are the proud Father of a Son and I extend best wishes to you, your wife and the baby.

Sincerely yours,

LE:DE.

Louis L. Long



NB C:107-8.

C:  
170  
800  
n/a

1934-38 5 (21<sup>o</sup> 17<sup>o</sup>) 31 var. p.c.d. differ—  
McCadney script 8 leaves diff—  
in huf? add 2  
by huf?  
Bov. "keltus 8"

8\* black's 8 Leaves not in device from across 8—  
marked (Tentative) by huf.

1934. C → A in '35  
Huf 4 → C  
4 cng. rind huf → C A in '35 No Payne Thin LIBRARY diff style  
Black 8' C cracked - small huf. Tongue  
# O → R '35 3-B SL @  
S D

1A FC — Same [My 10<sup>th</sup> var is 4-nw 7]  
2C, 3A "re" (var)

1925: 1 Huf 8 { gen 3 { short  
2 Huf 8 { chard 3 { long 5  
TSN 1 3 script 8 " " "

A no huf, in huf. No 34  
1 → B " " " " No 34  
2 → C " " " " X.R. Leaf not w/h U  
new. 3 → D " " " " No 34 leaf D-U  
TS. 3 → G lg. m/y 36

2C SP diff. @ H X.R.  
LC X.R.

L-A, L-B common

1926. { SD short 1 dr 1  
{ LD tall 1 gen 3 dr 2-6 }  
Ch m o h 5<sup>d</sup> 5<sup>d</sup> cha



6 chs under and  
 6 chs under and  
 SD  
 Tell 1  
 touch  
 chs 1, 3, 6 clw  
 3C (P) SI

1-A  
 2-B  
 3-C  
 4-D  
 5  
 6-E

ANJ 1-A. 4 w  
 no yes  
 no no  
 sm no  
 sm no

C: 171  
 34-5  
 11/4

---

37 Tell 1 black 8 open 3 st 7  
 SD → smaller 1 script 8 very close by  
 1A Sm lnd (P) 1A SI  
 2B lg lnd  
 3C SD in lnd

---

38 Tell 1 script 8 P de D  
 Tell 1 black 8 or on 1838-C  
 1-A middle arch to Mem center dot  
 2-B not short  
 8 wholly white. (SI 1) 2 lnd wld  
 38C Tell 1 (diff) 8 1-A 2 lnd wld  
 not much diff in only (SI 3) 1-B less only 1-U

---

38D script 8i, no lnd, no hyle.  
 repeated date

---

P mls: fine edge reding  
 4 D lines, corner



## Introduction 1807-12.

Almost all obverses by John Reich, 1807-17 inclusive, on every denomination from dismes through half eagles, show lowest star at right with one point notched: his "Signature." On some dies this notched point faces border; on others (no half eagles) it faces curl. Don Taxay apparently first called this the notched star a signature, before 1963; Stewart Witham {1967}, following Overton, called these notched stars "scallops". For the record Breen wrote the lions-share of Taxay's book here mentioned. On coins dated 1818 & later these notched star points no longer occur; Reich left the Mint March 31, 1817, after exactly 10 years without a pay raise & with much professional jealousy from the superannuated R. Scot, his superior in office but not in talent.

Almost six months to the day after J.Reich became Assistant Engraver of the Mint, his new half eagles appeared. Snowden, however, {1860} said the date was Sept. 30, 1807. Newspapers criticized the design as "the artists fat mistress."

Of notable interest are the changes of numerals: two different overdates for 1808, the entire 1809 mintage from an overdate die, the 1810's with four different combinations of large & small dates with large & small letters, the 1811's with two different sizes of 5's. Placing the denominations on gold & silver coins was a Reich innovation; earlier U.S. coins (except for half cents, cents & 1796-97 half dollars) lacked any denomination, because they passed by weight & fineness rather than "by tale" (by count, with each coin assumed to contain full face value).

Collector Circulation (hereafter CC) accounts for about 1% of original mintage, as do most other denominations. Some were put aside as souvenirs, some were in bank vaults held for cash demands. Most circulating coins of the day were Portuguese escudos, Spanish & Mexican 8 Escudos & fractions, Dutch ducats, etc.. In circulation a U.S. half-eagle, as Breen said "[...]stood out like a seagull among crows[...]" this is an old Latin saying. August 1, 1834 federal gold-weight standards changed lower, these old-tenor gold coins became worth more than face value, see quarter eagle & eagle. In melting pots the value was \$5.33 for half eagles.

SEYMOURWAMPUMSEYMOURWAM  
PUMSEYMOURWAMPUMSEYMOUR  
WAMPUMSEYMOURWAMPUMSEYM  
OURWAMPUMSEYMOURWAMPUMS  
EYMOURWAMPUMSEYMOURWAMP  
UMSEYMOURWAMPUMSEYMOURW  
AMPUMSEYMOURWAMPUMSEYMO  
URWAMPUMSEYMOURWAMPUMSE  
YMOURWAMPUMSEYMOURWAMPU  
MSEYMOURWAMPUMSEYMOURWA



W.Breen (1951-2) Research in the Archives. Header reads: \_\_ Statement in 303-96 of Cal/yr Coinage 1792-1836. Repeated in 1837 R.D.M w/addition of 1837 Figs. only.

|      | 10    | 5      | 2 1/2  |
|------|-------|--------|--------|
| 2-5. | 2795  | 8707   | —      |
| 6    | 6934! | 6196!  | 963!!  |
| 7    | 8323! | 3609!  | 859!!  |
| 8    | 7974  | 24867  | 614    |
| 9    | 17483 | 7451   | 480    |
| 1800 | 23965 | 11622  | —      |
| 1    | 29254 | 26006  | —      |
| 2    | 15090 | 53176  | 2612   |
| 3    | 8979  | 33506  | 423    |
| 4    | 9795  | 30475  | 3327   |
| 5    | —     | 33183  | 1781   |
| 6    | —     | 64093  | 1616   |
| 7    | —     | 84093  | 6912   |
| 8    | —     | 55578  | 2710   |
| 9    | —     | 33875  | —      |
| 10   | —     | 100287 | —      |
| 11   | —     | 99551  | —      |
| 12   | —     | 58087  | —      |
| 13   | —     | 95428  | —      |
| 14   | —     | 15454  | —      |
| 15   | —     | 635    | —      |
| 16   | —     | —      | —      |
| 17   | —     | —      | —      |
| 18   | —     | 48588  | —      |
| 19   | —     | 51723  | —      |
| 20   | —     | 263806 | —      |
| 21   | —     | 34641  | 6448   |
| 22   | —     | 17796  | —      |
| 23   | —     | 14485  | —      |
| 24   | —     | 17340  | 2600   |
| 25   | —     | 29060  | 4434   |
| 26   | —     | 18069  | 760    |
| 27   | —     | 24913  | 2800   |
| 28   | —     | 28029  | —      |
| 29   | —     | 57442  | 3403   |
| 30   | —     | 12651  | 4540   |
| 31   | —     | 140594 | 4520   |
| 32   | —     | 157487 | 4400   |
| 33   | —     | 193630 | 4160   |
| 34   | —     | 732169 | 117370 |
| 35   | —     | 371539 | 131412 |
| 36   | —     | 553147 | 547986 |

For typed version see Bibliography below.

1807

p69  
1807

Mintage reported as 84,093. Quarterly reports and earlier publications about this date seem to have been plagued with typographical errors. J.R.Snowden, in his 1860 Mint Manual, relying probably on documents not now preserved, assigned September 30 as the time of changeover from the Scot design ~~fr~~ with bust facing r. to the Reich/Persico design with bust left, and quoted 33,496 and 50,597 as the respective mintage figures. ~~I have been unable to confirm this date as the correct one, but quote it for what it is worth, and not likely to be bettered.~~ John Reich, designer and ~~mint~~ engraver following Scot, was rescued from servitude by some Mint official whose name I have forgotten, and taken into the Mint's employ as of April 1, 1807.. It is, then, altogether likely that Snowden's division is <sup>approximately</sup> correct; Reich would have had his hands full until well into the summer merely in multiplying dies of the previous designs, for the Mint's large coinages of cents <sup>and</sup> half-dollars. Deliveries:

| Dates    | Half Eagles |
|----------|-------------|
| Feb. 5   | 6696        |
| March 18 | 5492        |
| March 26 | 2828        |
| May 23   | 5473        |
| May 28   | 4960        |
| June 1   | 3559        |
| June 27  | 3480        |
| Sept. 30 | 15967       |
| Dec. 31  | 35638       |

Evidently Snowden took the last two deliveries as containing the bust left coins, but he must have made errors in addition or his printers must have made typographical errors. The totals, from these deliveries quoted in Bullion Journal "B" and confirmed in bullion ledgers for the period, seem to be 32,488 and 51,605.

This date shares with 1806 the peculiarity that its scarcer first type, with lower mintage, exists in a large number of die varieties, whereas its commoner second type comes in only one variety.

XIMP: See WB's original ms. in Bibliography concerning information found within Adams NB's.



## First Design.

870

Of the bust right type there are six varieties from four obverse and three reverse dies, only one of them at all often seen.

First Design. Bust right.

Type I. Small date and stars; ~~xxxx~~ small rev. stars.

B. 1-A. Small date and stars; distant ~~NI~~; small rev. stars, lowest outer leaf hollow. Clapp 1.

Obv. 1. Date in small numerals, spaced 1 807 (sufficient to identify the die at long range); ~~small~~ the small numerals are similar to those found on the 1806 with knobbed 6 and are the same size as, or possibly slightly less tall than, the letters in LIBERTY. Small stars, possibly slightly less in maximum diameter (point to point) than the digits.

Rev. A. Small reverse ~~stars~~ and the only 1807 die with them. as in 1806, identifiable immediately by having lowest outer leaf--that at C--hollow, a mere thin outline. U is low, NI nearly touch, D is slightly high. Leaf runs into left part of base of I. ~~xxxx~~ On most impressions there is a rim break over T of UNITED touching that letter. Later, the rim break extends over corner of E, and another break develops touching D. Obverse is not as yet broken.

R-3. The only nearly common 1807 with bust right; the majority of specimens seen for this design are from these dies. Compare WGC345-6 (early and late), Melish 1897-99 and 1906, Bell # II 582, etc., etc.

Type II. Small date and stars; large rev. stars.

B. 1-B. Small date ~~NI~~ and stars; distant ~~NI~~; <sup>large rev. stars,</sup> stemless leaves. Clapp 2; Newcomer 80.

Obv. 1. Now usually with a rim break touching E in LIBERTY.

Rev. B. Large rev. stars as on all to follow, these stars much taller than motto ribbon, and more than half the height of letters. Leaves stemless and welded directly to the thick branch stem. Letters

P72

in UNITED closely spaced, mostly leaning to right, and flush against border. First S in STATES too low; all letters in this word likewise lean somewhat to right, the left base of each letter higher than the base of its left-hand neighbor. Leaf at I not touching that letter and ends to right of center of base. Berry about under center of A. 6<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> stars about in a straight line.  
R-5, possibly R-6. Cf. WGC 347, and Melish 1900, and Lt 365, NN 49<sup>th</sup> side.

B. 2-B. Small evenly spaced date, small stars; xxx large rev. stars, stemless leaves. C, app 5.

Obv. 2. Small date, evenly and rather closely spaced. Head rather lightly hunched into die; lowest curl thin, only barely touching 1. 7 distant from drapery.

Rev. B. Now usually with clash marks from obverse.

R-6. Cf. WGC 348 and Melish 1903.

B. 2-C. Small even date, small stars; large rev. stars, spine from leaf to I. Clapp 4.

Obv. 2.

Rev. C. Large rev. stars, somewhat differently arranged from those in reverse B. 6<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> are not quite in a straight line, the 11<sup>th</sup> being high. 1st, 7<sup>th</sup> and 2nd are just about in a right angle, forming three corners of a square. Letters more regularly placed, and not leaning right nor so close to border. FED seem slightly higher than UNI. Spine from nearest leaf runs into I.

R-6, and rarer than preceding. Melish 1904.

Type III. Small date, large stars obv. and rev.

B. 3-C. Small date spaced 1 8 07, small stars spread apart; xxx large rev. stars, spine from leaf to I. Not in Clapp.

Obv. 3. I<sub>n</sub> date, small numerals, widely spaced except 07 which are too close together, producing 1 8 07. The 1 just barely touched curl. Stars are larger than on previous dies and are very widely spaced, more so than on any other die save for the pointed-6 obverse

First Design.



## First Design.

P73

with all stars spread ~~xxxxx~~ except first two.

Rev. G.

R-7. Melish 1901, ex Ryder; originally from a Lyman Low sale in 1916. I have seen one or two others, and that is all.

Type IV. Large date.

B. 4-C. Large date, 1 and 0 recut. Clapp 3.

Obv. 4. Larger numerals than on preceding dies, filling the space between bust and border. The 7 small compared to 180. Plain double punching on 1 and 0. Stars are fairly large.

Rev. G.

R-5. Melish 1902, 1905; WEC 349 (?); lot 979, NN 51st sale; etc.

Second Design. Draped bust left. By John Reich, after designs by E. Luigi Persico. Full, buxom bust of Liberty left, wearing mobcap upon whose headband is LIBERTY. Curls in ringlets below. Seven stars left, six right; smaller numerals in date than formerly. Rev. Eagle grasping branch and arrows, the branch now to his right (observer's left, the dexter position); wings raised, shield on breast, motto ribbon in field above, 5 D. below; without stars or clouds. Found on half-eagles from 1807 through 1812 only, quarter eagles ~~fr~~ of 1808 only, half dollars from 1807 ~~through~~ 1836 with numerous modifications, etc. The hubs appear to have contained only the figure of Liberty on obverse and the eagle, branch, arrows and motto ribbon with its letters on reverse. Beading, stars, numerals and letters were added by hand punching.

Much controversy has been extended to little purposes ~~in~~ over whether or not the cap worn by Miss Liberty (said to ~~xxxxxx~~ have been modeled by the artist's fat mistress!) was or was not the Phrygian cap or Liberty cap. I shall quote a letter from the Director of the Mint to Thomas Jefferson which seems to settle the matter.

## Second Design.



PTB3  
Mint of the United States, Philada,

Feby 14<sup>th</sup> 1825.

Thomas Jefferson Esqr

Monticello

Sir,

It is not without hesitation and reluctance that I prefer a request, which will be the occasion of any inconvenience to one who has acquired so high a claim to be exempted from intrusion; but I know not to whom I can address myself with the hope of obtaining information so accurate, as you, I doubt not, possess, on a subject to which I respectfully solicit your attention.

The character of the impression emblematic of Liberty on our coins, does not appear, from any record I have seen, to have been determined by specific instruction from the government; nor has it been settled by any uniform practice here. The journals of the Senate, and other notices of the proceedings of Congress, show that the head of the President was at first intended as the device for one side of the coins; and that the house of Representatives substituted the words now in the Law. [Mint Act of April<sup>2</sup> 1792.] But, neither the journals, nor the brief notices which the <sup>SR</sup>papers contain of the debates of that period, give any indication of the precise emblem intended.

The first coins struck were cents of 1793, on which the emblem adopted was a female head, with hair wildly flying behind. In 1795 [actually late 1793] the cap of Liberty was introduced supported on a wand projecting behind the head. In 1796 or '97 the cap was discarded and has not since been restored.

In 1794 the first silver coins were struck. The head of Liberty was here also adopted with flowing hair, without the accompaniment of a cap. This style was retained on the silver coins, with slight modifications, until about the year 1803 [actually 1807], when Mr. Patterson procured a more pleasing head of Liberty, and ornamented it with



p74

a dress [the cap]; not intended, as I learn from the Officers of the Mint, to represent the cap of Liberty, nor approaching it in form, but taken from life, and considered a model in good taste of the fashion of the time. The inscription of the word LIBERTY was, at the same period, transferred from the margin of the coin to the ~~band~~ band of the cap. This head dress continues to the present day on the Silver Coins since issued, but has never been adopted on the dollar; none having been struck, nor any new dies of that denomination made since 1805. [Actually 1804.]

The first Gold coins were struck in 1795. The head on them was, from the first, ornamented with a cap head dress; not the Liberty cap in form, but probably conforming to the fashionable dress of the day. This continued until 1808 [i.e. 1807], when the headdress of the gold coins was conformed to that adopted on the silver. ... I have recited the above detail ~~and~~ of facts, familiar, probably, to your notice at the time, if not in some instances emanating from your authority, in order to lessen the trouble of <sup>recalling</sup> ~~writing~~ them to your recollection.

It seems expedient, if indeed there is not an official obligation, to complete the series [of denominations] of our ~~mint~~ dies, and ~~the~~ the unsettled question of what is the proper emblem of Liberty, for our coins, is entitled to consideration before a new original die of our money is prepared. Permit me therefore to request information on the following points, as having a fair relation to the subject.

1 What figure or device may be considered as intended by Congress, or the administration of the Mint, by the words in the law, "an impression emblematic of Liberty."

2 Was the cap of liberty adopted or alluded to as the fit emblem by any act of the confederation, or of any of the States, or by popular usage, during the revolution, or previously to 1792, so that this device may be supposed to have been intended?



P76

3 When emblems of representations of Liberty were in those ~~it~~times resorted to, on public occasions, of what description were they?

4 If the Liberty cap be the emblem intended in the Law; or if it be deemed an ~~M~~Americanized and suitable emblem, is it proper to place it on the head of the figure personifying Liberty.

Such information or suggestions as you may find it convenient to favour me with, will be thankfully received. When I am satisfied as to the impression emblematic of Liberty which can be sustained on the best ground, a few pattern pieces will be struck, to be submitted to the consideration of the government, which if approved, or with such modifications as ~~will~~ <sup>shall</sup> be directed, may fix the character of our coins.

Supposing the female head to be an appropriate figure, three views in relation to it present themselves. To adhere to the present dress cap, or copy it so nearly as not to exhibit the appearance of any specific change.--To exclude the cap and adopt an easy disposition of the hair, with no ornament but the ~~band~~ <sup>band</sup> of Liberty.--To adopt the classic style of cap, which though resembling the cap of Liberty in form, ~~would~~, nevertheless, be distinguished from it, by being worn on the head of the figure, if it be true that the cap of Liberty is out of place there,. --The first would be the easiest, being a style familiar to the Engraver of the Mint.--The second, if happily executed, would perhaps be ~~the~~ most pleasing as being more true to life and nature.--The third has the advantage of a permanent standard in the exquisite models of art derived ~~from~~ <sup>from</sup> classic times.

I am with great respect

Your Obedt Sert

Samuel Moore

Director

*Italics and bracketed material mine.*

The omission from this letter dealt principally with the copper



-976

coinage's never having borne the liberty cap. Jefferson's reply was brief and noncommittal, saying only that the liberty cap is not proper to be worn on the head of the goddess, as we were never slaves, and that he does not recall any common, let alone official, impression emblematic of liberty prior to 1792. For other details on the iconography of liberty in Colonial times, see the article by myself and Lynn Glaser, "Miss Liberty's American Debut," Numismatic Journal 2. From the date of this letter, I assume the context to have been Samuel Moore's then-recent contact with Christian Gobrecht; the result was two large medallions of Liberty heads, which were long preserved in the Mint and for all I know may still be there. ~~TH~~So far as I know, however, no patterns for new coin designs followed this correspondence. I have printed the letter here principally to show that, on as nearly contemporaneous evidence as possible, the cap used on the draped bust left designs --as on the earlier gold designs--was not intended to depict the Liberty cap at all, but was rather drawn from fashionable garments of the period. It is interesting to realize that Dr. Moore--and evidently his predecessors as well--believed that the figure of Liberty had to be, at that time, ~~xxxx~~ in what was then modern headdress. ~~EX~~ To them, liberty was a live, present-time concept, not something outmoded or of great antiquity. It may be significant that more recent "impressions emblematic of liberty" have been of much more antique appearance.

We return to the 1807 half-eagles. Of this second design, only one die variety is at present known.

B. 5-D. Bust left. Clapp 6, Newcomer 81.

Obv. 5. Small numerals, large stars, all about evenly spaced.

Rev. D. Leaf close to U. D away from wing. E S widely spaced. Close 5 D., the 5 tall ~~xxx~~--apparently from the punch used through 1810. ~~xx~~ I in motto below upright of E; final S in STATES above U and space to left.

1810 877  
R-2. This and 1812 are probably the most easily obtained dates of the Draped Bust Left design. Common enough in all grades, in terms of specimens actually seen, but in enough demand among type collectors to have driven prices up to near equality with the scarcer dates 1808-11. Pictured in the Guidebook, Standard Catalogue, etc.

To find origin v Reich's eagle motif (1807) or Scott's (1795 A), check Clarence P. Hornung, *The American Eagle in Art & Design*, Dover 1978; *Treatise v Amer. Design* (2v), Abrams 1972; *PMI 1800-1820*, *The Amer. Eagle*, NY 1975.

NB 7:21

See Index of Subjects for cap defined.

For Capped Bust to Right, Heraldic Eagle see 1795-1807.



NB:WBV#15p.5: \$5 C#'s Clapp to Earle inventory pedigrees.

07 C1 1807 SP HPS \$10½  
 2 1/2 N80 SHHC 2/93 \$6  
 3 LD N74 " " "  
 4 Earle \$11 /3  
 (5 4/2 Seers)  
 GUDBL Seers 10/09 \$17½

---

08 1 (8/7) Spedding \$7.70  
 2 Collins 4/93 \$6

---

09 SHHC 2/93 \$6

---

10 1 LD ————— \$17½  
 2 SD Tall S. Seers 4/10 \$20  
 (3 SD & S Earle 2374)

---

11 1 <sup>Seers</sup> Earle \$12L  
 2 ~~u~~ SD Maryj \$10½

---

12 1 velvet SP Seers 4/10 \$12  
 2 u velvet SP Earle \$14

---

13 1 = A2. Collins 8/92 \$6

---

14 1 R 1913 Spedding \$7.70

---

15 1 14PS \$10.50

---

18 1 N99 Roudale 3/94 \$7½  
 2 98 42 Seers 4/10 \$25  
 3 u 97 AI D/O HPS \$15

---

19 1 D/O HPS: \$650  
 2 1/2 non. Maryj 1670—Ward—N  
 3 Kate t. cat Zug: 185

---

20 1 cat 2 sh SHHC 2/93 \$22  
 (2 1/2 Earle: 2388)  
 (3 94 Spedding \$18  
 (4 97 Wilbur 71)

SEYMOURWAMPUMSEYMOURWAM  
PUMSEYMOURWAMPUMSEYMOUR  
WAMPUMSEYMOURWAMPUMSEYM  
OURWAMPUMSEYMOURWAMPUMS  
EYMOURWAMPUMSEYMOURWAMP  
UMSEYMOURWAMPUMSEYMOURW  
AMPUMSEYMOURWAMPUMSEYMO  
URWAMPUMSEYMOURWAMPUMSE  
YMOURWAMPUMSEYMOURWAMPU  
MSEYMOURWAMPUMSEYMOURWA



[illegible]

1807



Ill. is Breen 5-D, C-6, N-81.  
6 in S.I.. WB's copy G.E.N.A. P.T.A. 5-D 9/1974:1902 see Bib. below;. Ditto  
P.T.A. Breen 2 6/75:349 'BU' described in detail; —:350.

Two reverse varieties.

Ill. 1st rev. photos destroyed by water in flood.



Second reverse variety has 5 much farther from leaf, (E)D nearer wing. Crack  
through E(S) to eagles head. Ex-rare.

See important catalogs below for: Wayte Raymond's copy JCM 278th sale:  
lot 178, VF, \$8.10.

OC NN 1952 ANA:586 "1807. Head in round cap. Abt. Uncirculated. A  
remarkable clean and desirable specimen. Sold to Coal \$35. See Bib. below.



Clapp to Earle see above.

PCA III "Beck" See Bibliography: Catalogs of Auctions. 2/14/77:306 \$1,250.00. "[...]Choice About Uncirculated-50[...]" Plate. —:307 \$700.00. "[...] Very Fine-35[...]"Faint edge bruise between 5th and 6th stars on obverse and another on rim behind cap[...]" —:308 \$525.00. "[...]Very Fine-35. Impaired slightly by horizontal gash in cap resulting in a bend in planchet[...]" —:309 \$725.00. "[...]Very Fine-25[...]"Few tiny "bag" nicks on cheek and in field. Edge bruise over S[!]econd T in STATES and E in UNITED[...]" —:310 \$400.00. "Overall Very Fine-20, however, coin has been used for jewelry. Trace of solder stain on edge and the usual burnishing very evident. Tiny marks in field from handling[...]"

BMM A.Carter 10/55:199 '[...]U semi-proof surface[...]'.

ms. FCI Descriptions of New Varieties {1977} (1/1976-4-77) Hereafter DNV. Draped Bust Left. 1807. Breen 5-D. Small rim break above N. Better than AU, light adjustment marks at borders. B0021.

DNV 1807. Another. AU, sharper strike but with nick on cap above ER. B0022.

DNV 1807. A third. Some details VF, others a little weaker. Even wear; probably someone's [sic] pocket piece. B0023.

See Bibliography below.

Compare Harry Bass Collection below.

NN 47:1435. "1807. Large head 1., as on 1808-12. The design of E. Lugio Persico, executed by John Reich. Choice Unc. Adjustment marks upon rev. border; few minor defects. Attractive. Ex Elder.

Elder 10/1908:20 VF. \$16.60 Chapman.

KS 4/3-4/59:2652 'CEF'.

|     |      |   |    |   |
|-----|------|---|----|---|
| 368 | 1807 | Head left (new design). Round cap. Sharp struck in pale orange gold. Brilliant Uncirculated. PLATE  | SD | ~ |
| 369 | 1807 | Bust left as above. Design by John Reich. Brilliant Uncirculated. Very sharp struck with 5 D <del>recessed</del> Mar-free surfaces. Ex-H. Chapman - Cost \$11.00! | SD | ✓ |
| 370 | 1807 | Bust left. Just a shade from the Gem category. Choice Brilliant Uncirculated. Lovely mint bloom. Very scarce this nice. Sharp struck.                             | SD | ~ |
| 371 | 1807 | Bust left. Brilliant Uncirculated. Struck in pale yellow gold. Beautiful surfaces. Worth a record bid.  | SD | ~ |

WB's annotated K 1/75:366-71 above.

1808



2 in S.I. are B. 1-A.

Ill. is perfect date, wide 5 D. Breen 4-B, C-2.

1808

Mintage 55,578. The most notable feature about this date is the presence of two different overdate dies.

B. 1-A. Overdate, 7 at left of 8. Not in EClapp.

Obv. 1. Date very widely spaced, and more gently curved than is border, so that 1 and final 8 are nearer border than are ~~the~~ 8 0. At left side of final 8 most of a 7 can be made out, the shaft of 7 is plainest at bottom and left, the horizontal crossbar of 7 above and to left of upper left curve of 8. As overdates go, this one is remarkably careless in that there seems to have been no attempt made to conceal the ~~xxxx~~ 7 at all. Later, shows a crack from upper rim at about 1 o'clock, through cap, T, curls, drapery and right side of first 8 to border. This crack becomes very heavy.

Rev. A. Same as the 1807 die of this design.

R-6. Melish 1910-11; Wolfson 349; pictured in the Guidebook. The die break probably accounts for its rarity.

B. 2-A. Overdate, 7 within 8. Clapp 1.

Obv. 2. Date more closely spaced, its curvature more nearly the same as that of the border. Within upper loop of final 8 is part of crossbar and shaft of a 7. Traces of serif of 7 are visible at upper left outer edge of 8. Almost none of shaft of 7 can be seen within lower loop of 8.

Rev. A.

R-4. Melish 1912-13 and many others.



Normal uneven date 1 8 08, p78  
B. 3-A. ~~xxxxxxx~~ close 5 D. Not in Clapp.

Obv. 3. Without trace of 7 at second 8. Date unevenly spaced, the 08 too close, giving 1 8 08. Numeral 1 not higher than adjacent 8. Coarser border denticles than on previous obverses. Stars very close to border, many nearly touching denticles. First star close to drapery, 8<sup>th</sup> star close to cap (less than a millimeter away), 13<sup>th</sup> star touching or practically touching ~~xxxxxxx~~curl.

Rev. A. Distinguished from the other die found with a normal date 1808 obv. by having 5D quite closely spaced, the D less than a millimeter from 5 at tip, and much farther from A than from D.

R-7. Compare Bell II 585. The variety may be slightly less rare than formerly believed--nearer to R-6 than to R-8--as some examples may still be masquerading as 4-A, which follows.

B. 4-A. Normal date, evenly spaced; close 5 D. Not in Clapp.

Obv. 4. Without trace of 7 at second 8. Date about evenly spaced, the 1 leaning left and with base a trifle higher than adjacent 8. Stars well away from border, first quite distant from drapery, 8<sup>th</sup> far from cap (more than a millimeter away), 13<sup>th</sup> well away from curl.

Rev. A. Perfect and with cracks through ~~xxxx~~ bases of 5 D. and stop of adjacent A, etc. Rarer with the cracks than with perfect dies.

R-6. Cf. WGC 353, 354 cracked dies, the former unc. and probably finest; lot 743, NN 54<sup>th</sup> sale; Melish 1916; Straus 1564; and lot 730 of Associated Coin Auction Co.'s mail bid sale of April 1955.

B. 4-B. Normal even date; wide 5 D. Clapp 2.

Obv. 4.

Rev. B. The reverse of 1809. Widely spaced 5 D., The D about equidistant between 5 and A, and more than a millimeter from either. I in motto below left tip of B; final S above U and space to right. Coarser denticles than on reverse A.

NN 47:1436. "1808. Perfect date; 5 D distant. About Unc. Obverse border file marks; some russet tarnish. Desirable. Ex Elder.

PCA III 2/14/77: 311 \$1,500.00. "Normal Date, wide 5 D. Choice About Uncirculated-55, with mint lustre[...]" Plate. —:312 \$1,050.00. "[...] Extremely Fine-45[...]" Plate. —:313 \$700.00. "[...]Extremely Fine-40[...]]lightly burnished[...]]Light scratch in field in front of chin[...]" Plate.

DNV 1808. Breen 4-A. Evenly spaced date; close 5D. AU, lustrous, faint handling marks, small rim nick above TA. Very rare. B0024. See Bib. below WB's copy G.E.N.A. P.T.A. 4-A 9/1974:1903. BMM A.Carter 10/55:200 'Perfect date. 'Au''.

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R-2. Possibly R-3. This is the variety most often seen, but it is not as common as 1807. Cf. WGC ~~XXX~~ 352, Geiss 1670, Melish 1914-15, bt 367, NN 49<sup>th</sup> sale, etc.

(apparently from obv. 4)

Specimens bearing date 1808/and showing a heraldic eagle reverse, evidently the rusted die of 1805 found with obvs. dated 1804 and 1805, exist in silver, supposedly with plain and reeded edges, probably many of the reeded edge coins showing only faint or partial reeding. Judd 394<sup>40</sup>; Adams-Woodin 27, 28. These are restrikes from genuine dies discarded by the mint and sold as scrap metal.



## 8 OVER 7

Ill. is overdate, close 5D. Breen 2-A, C-1.

Kendrick 9/16/1909, Holden, N:757 Unc..

B. 2-A described in detail in WB's copy Breen 2 6/75:351 in Bib. below.

Breen 1-A: Serif of 7 mostly left of 8; shaft in left parts of loops. Hagel:601 (4 Landmark Colls. B&M 3/1989).

Breen 2-A see PTA #1:36 description. Near AU. \$1,925.00.

In S.I.: 1 each 3-A, 4-A.

Obverses hereafter have corser dentils.

Breen 4-B: 3 in S.I..

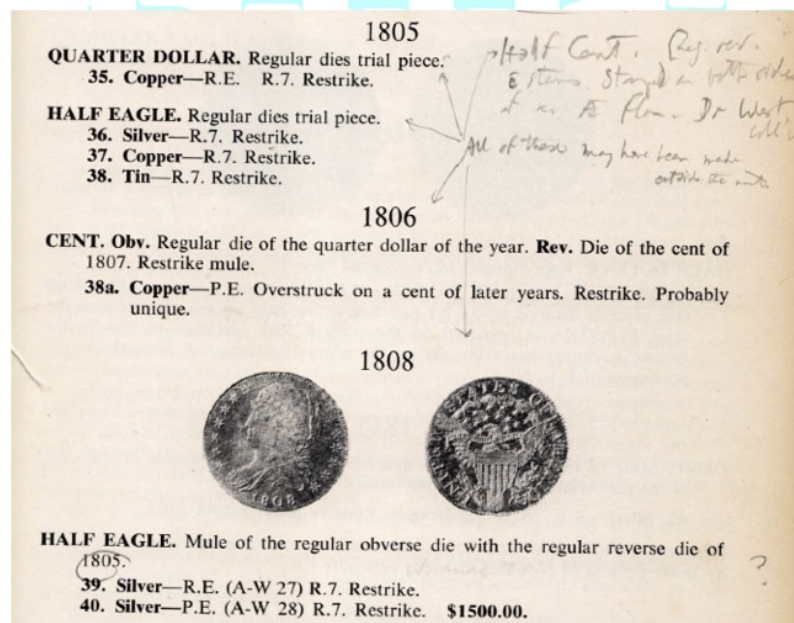


NB:WBV#15p.5: For Clapp to Earle inventory see 1807 lower page.

Information from WB's notes mid-1980's:

- 1) 1906 H.P. Smith:216 EF \$210.00., 'AU' 1982 U.S.G.C.:385 \$44K.
  - 2) 1954 'Palace Sale':244 1954, 'U' 1955 Smith:1690 \$2,700.00,'U' 1796 ANA:2944 \$25K, 'U' 1982 ('82 Sale):1932 \$42,500.00.
  - 3) 'U' 1947 Lee:1247.
  - 4) 'U' 1944 Flanagan:1103 \$925.00., 'PLU' 1944 Bell:349 \$1,300.00.'U' 1962 Wolfson:371 \$5,250.00., 'AU' 1980 Auction ('80 Sale):927 \$55K.
- Others: 'U' 1890 Parmelee:978 \$49.00.  
'U' 1936 Morgenthau #366:65 \$960.00.  
'U' 1940 Morgenthau #418:30 \$400.00.  
'U' 1958 N.Y. Met Sale:1235, \$1,475.00.  
'EF' 1933 Morgenthau #311:222 \$455.00.  
'VF' 1907 Stickney:670 \$360.00.

Some of the above 6 pieces may belong within numbers 1)-4) above.



Walter Breen's annotated Judd 3rd edition. "All these may have been made outside the Mint." See also 1803, 1804, 1805.

Compare Harry Bass Collection below.

|     |      |   |
|-----|------|---|
| 372 | 1808 | 8 over 7 Brilliant Uncirculated. Attractive pale orange toning. Equal to the finest. — 2A   |
| 373 | 1808 | 8 over 7 Deep planchet <sup>to face at</sup> flaw at fourth star. Die break bisects obverse from second star through face, cap to rim and another die break through tenth star. Choice Very Fine. <sup>2A</sup><br><del>Scarce.</del> <i>for seen 2 break</i> |
| 374 | 1808 | Normal date. Brilliant Uncirculated. Sharp strike. Full mint lustre with hardly any handling marks. <i>4B —</i>   |

WB's annot. K 1/75:372-74 above; 375-6 below.

|     |      |   |
|-----|------|---|
| 375 | 1808 | Normal date. Wide 5 D. Brilliant Uncirculated. Attractive toning and clean surfaces. Very scarce this nice. <i>4B —</i>                           |
| 376 | 1808 | Choice Uncirculated. Pale orange toning. Not quite perfect due to minor handling marks and tiny rim nick between TA. Sharp strike. <i>1A 26 ~</i> |

B. 4-A See Bib. below for WB's copy Breen 2 6/75:352 'AU'. Also B. 4-B 'BfsU'.

Elder 10/1908:21 U. Plate. \$12.00 Mitchellson. —:22 F. \$8.20 Worth.



1809



9 OVER 8

1809

Mintage 33,875. Only one die variety, despite contrary claims.

B. 1-A. Overdate. Clapp 1.

Obv. 1. Overdate, 9 over 8, the 9 larger than the other digits; knobbed, as on the cent and half-cent, rather than pointed, as on the dime of the year. Nearest to obverse 3 of 1808 in positions, but not a die seen before. Numeral 1 ~~high~~ above base arc line of 80, and leaning a little to left; first star closer to bust than on obv. 4 but not quite as close as on obv. 3; 8<sup>th</sup> star likewise; 13<sup>th</sup> close to curl but not touching. On later states the ~~mk~~ 8 becomes harder to see within the 9 and finally fades out. These late states are scarce./ Cf. Geiss 1672-4

Claims that a die was made without any trace of overdate are not verified.

Rev. A. Same as 1808 rev. B.

R-2. Not as often seen as 1807 bust left, but available in any grade desired.



Ill. is overdate. Breen 1-A, C-1.  
6 in S.I..



For detailed description see Bibliography below. WB's annotated G.E.N.A. P.T.A. 11/1975:1478.

Also P.T.A. Breen 2 6/75:354, —:355 die description.

Elder 10/1908:23 VF. \$17.00 Jackson. —:24 F. \$6.60 Chapman.

PCA III 2/14/77:314 \$1,100.00. "...Extremely Fine-45. Die break connects two bottom stars on left to point of bust..." Plate.

NB:WBV#15p.5 For Clapp to Earle inventory see 1807 lower page.

Compare Harry Bass Collection below.



|     |      |  |
|-----|------|--|
| 377 | 1809 | 9 over 8. Brilliant Uncirculated with full original mint bloom. ✓  |
| 378 | 1809 | 9 over 8. Brilliant Uncirculated. Pale orange toning. A beautiful specimen. ✓  |
| 379 | 1809 | 9 over 8. A faint rub away from choice Uncirculated. Ex-Chapman. Cost - \$8.50!<br>Original envelope and ticket enclosed. 1st 62 2nd |

WB's annot. K 1/75:377-79 above.

|     |       |  |        |
|-----|-------|--|--------|
|     |       | • Unc - very slight rubbing  |        |
| Av+ | 1694. | \$5.00 Gold Half Eagle 1807 New Style - B.U.   | 140.00 |
| et  | 1695. | \$5.00 Gold Half Eagle 1808 Choice A.U. - Scarce   | 115.00 |
|     | 1696. | \$5.00 Gold Half Eagle 1809 over 8 - Choice Brilliant Uncirc - Gem <i>Nice despite lt. bayside</i> | 135.00 |
|     | 1697. | \$5.00 Gold Half Eagle 1811 Small '5' - Very Fine plus   | 100.00 |
| st  | 1698. | \$5.00 Gold Half Eagle 1812 Brill Uncirc   | 130.00 |
|     | 1699. | \$5.00 Gold Half Eagle 1835 Extra Fine   | 36.00  |
| ~   | 1700. | \$5.00 Gold Half Eagle 1836 Brill Uncirc   | 39.00  |
|     | 1701. | \$5.00 Gold Half Eagle 1885 S. Uncirc <i>not 1st</i>   | 19.00  |

WB's annot. 1959 ANA above.

1810



Ill. is small date large 5. Breen 2-D. Type IV.



**SMALL DATE, TALL 5**

1 8 1 0

Mintage 100, ~~W~~287. Notable for large and small dates muled with large and small 5. At one time there was not thought to be any particular difference in rarity among them. More recent research ~~W~~ has shown that over 80% of specimens of this date are from the dies here called 1-A.



Ill. is large date, tall 5. Breen 1-A, 1-A, C-1. See Bib. below WB's copy G.E.N.A. P.T.A. 1-A 9/1974:1904, —:1905. Also P.T.A. Breen 2 6/75:356. S.I. has 6 pieces B. 1-A.  
B. 1-A: Many Unc. survivors, probably from an old hoard.



980

~~XXXXX.~~

Type I. Large date and 5.

B. 1-A. Large date, large wide 5. Clapp 1.

Obv. 1. Very large numerals, the largest seen since 1807 bust right, and the largest in the series save for 1812. They are from the punched used on the half-cents. All numerals lean to left; 10 more closely spaced than other digits. Pictured in the Guidebook.

Rev. A. Large wide 5 of different style from any other in the series. This 5 is not much taller than the D, but it is considerably wider, with its ball projecting considerably to left of an (imaginary) extension of the nearly vertical left side or "upright" stroke. Recutting at left of ball, later fading out. The ball is also not much thicker than the lower curve of the 5. U slightly low, leans sharply left; I in motto below r. foot of T; final S above US; widely spaced 5 D., the D about midway between 5 and final A.

R-2. This is one of the most often seen half-eagles of the design. Available in any grade designed.

Type II. Large date, small 5.

B. 1-B. Large date, very small 5. Not in Clapp.

Obv. 1.

Rev. B. Small narrow 5, the smallest 5 found on any half-eagle; no taller than letters, narrower than the D. Triangular rust pit close to topmost leaf point, the rust pit larger than either berry. U a little high and well away from N; tops of T and D high. I in motto below space between TE, favoring the T; final S above US. This reverse pictured in the Guidebook.

R-8. ~~xxxxxxx~~ Barely possible at the top level of R-7. I have seen ~~only~~ only one, the George Gozan coin. There are two auction records ~~in~~ for coins in the same condition: Geiss 1676 and lot 417~~2~~ of the Miami ~~xxx~~-F.U.N. sale. Presumably either the ~~Miss~~ piece found its way into Gozan's collection, or else it went to the consignor of the F.U.N. sale; Gozan still has his coin.

B. 1-B: Fewer than 6 seen, none Unc..



III. no ball 5,



ball 5.



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The ordering of varieties to follow (in Types III and IV) is known to be at variance with the probable sequence. The variety I call 2-D probably came first, then 2-C, finally 2-B, and the last two mentioned show earmarks of being an emergency issue prepared from any old dies which would hold up even briefly. I depart from the probable emission sequence solely for convenience.

Type III. Small date, small 5.

B. 2-B. Small date, rev. as last. Clapp 3.

Obv. 2. Small numerals in date, similar to those of 1808 and 1811. The numerals are less tall than maximum diameters of stars, and about equal reverse letters in height. Rusted die; the Straus coin (included in the "Cicero" sale as lot 110) shows heavy crack from rim through first 1, drapery, button, curls, right tip of Y, cap and border. Pressman's coin shows additional cracks through date, from cap to 9<sup>th</sup> star, and ~~in~~ from curl to 12<sup>th</sup> star. Pictured in the Guidebook.

Rev. B. As /preceding. Cracked along lowest right leaf to border, a crack branching from this crack to 5 D and base of final A and through middle of RIC.

R-7, high. I have seen only two and know a third from its picture. (1) Earle 2374 seems to have reappeared as Dr. Green 248, nearly VF. This may be the piece pictured in the Guidebook. (2) Philip Straus of Baltimore owned the first one I ever saw; in the Stack sale of part of his estate (1956 N.Y. Metropolitan Convention), it was lot 2406, realizing \$70. It was bought by New Netherlands on behalf of a customer, who subsequently took it to a jeweler for removal of the mutilating initials M.I.C. in obverse field. It was reconsigned with the "Cicero" material in the NN 55<sup>th</sup> sale, lot 110, realizing \$950. At the Miami F.U.N. convention, January 1963, I saw the piece in the bourse table of Rare Coin Co. of America. I do not know its present whereabouts. (3) A piece owned by one of the Pressman brothers in Cleveland is from the latest



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die state known. George Gozan, I believe, owns one, but I am not sure it is different from the Earle-Dr. Green piece. No others are reported as yet. The piece is not likely to drop below the level of high R-7 for a long time to come, as I have been hunting examples of this rarity for twelve years. I first learned that it was a rarity when I found no ~~xxxx~~ auction records aside from Earle's, in indexing American auctions <sup>neither nor Boyd</sup> for ANS back in 1951. That/Clapp/~~xxxx~~ owned one; ~~xxxxxx~~ was confirmation. It is another important naked-eye ~~xy~~type.

Type IV. Small date, tall 5.

B. 2-C. Small date, tall 5, E above IB. Clapp 2.

Obv. 2. As preceding. Rusty but not cracked.

Rev. C. Same as 1808 rev. B, 1809 rev. A, now rusty. The problem is to distinguish this die from D, which has the same style of 5 and in other ways closely resembles it. (1) I in motto below left tip of E, or what is the same thing, E in STATES above IB. In reverse D, E is above B, the <sup>being</sup> I/entirely to left. (2) X Final S above U and space to right. In rev. D, final S is partly above U and largely above S in PLURIBUS. (3) Letters in UNITED are very close to border denticles. In rev. D, they are quite distant. There are many other minor differences, but these will enable quick identification.

R-6, high. Cf. <sup>the</sup> Sleicher-Ryder coin, real~~l~~appearing as Melish 1919; and the Gozan coin.

B. 2-D. Small date, tall 5, E above B only. Not in Clapp.

Obv. 2. Perfect die.

Rev. D. Same as the Tall 5 die of 1811. <sup>1</sup>Similar to preceding. E in STATES above B, not above IB; final S above S and partly above right part of U; UNITED well away from border.

R-6, lower. Cf. WGC 358-9, Bell II 589, lot 370, NN 49<sup>th</sup> sale, etc. The rarity of this and preceding may have to be modified; both are rare, but earlier specimens are likely to have been mislabeled.





Ill's are Large Date, Large 5. B.1-A. Type I.  
Elder 10/1908:25 LD. F. \$6.20 Elder.

Breen 2-B: Fewer than 8 seen, none Unc.. 1) Pierce, Miles:347. 2) "Cicero," KS 4/1987, Auction 81:1426, \$20,000.00, R.E. Naftzger, Auction 82:1927, \$4,250.00. This was NN jeweler repaired, see above.

Small date, tall 5 3-D, & 4 unlisted. I cannot locate all the 4 unlisted at this time. B. 3-D see Bib. below in WB's copy P.T.A. Breen 2 6/75:358

2-D: 2 in S.I..

NB 89:81 1810 \$5 SD L5: new obv.: ck base of date. ...A.c.t.o. CWAC many rare early US AV coins turned up in Europe 1979-80, stimulated by higher AV bullion prices.

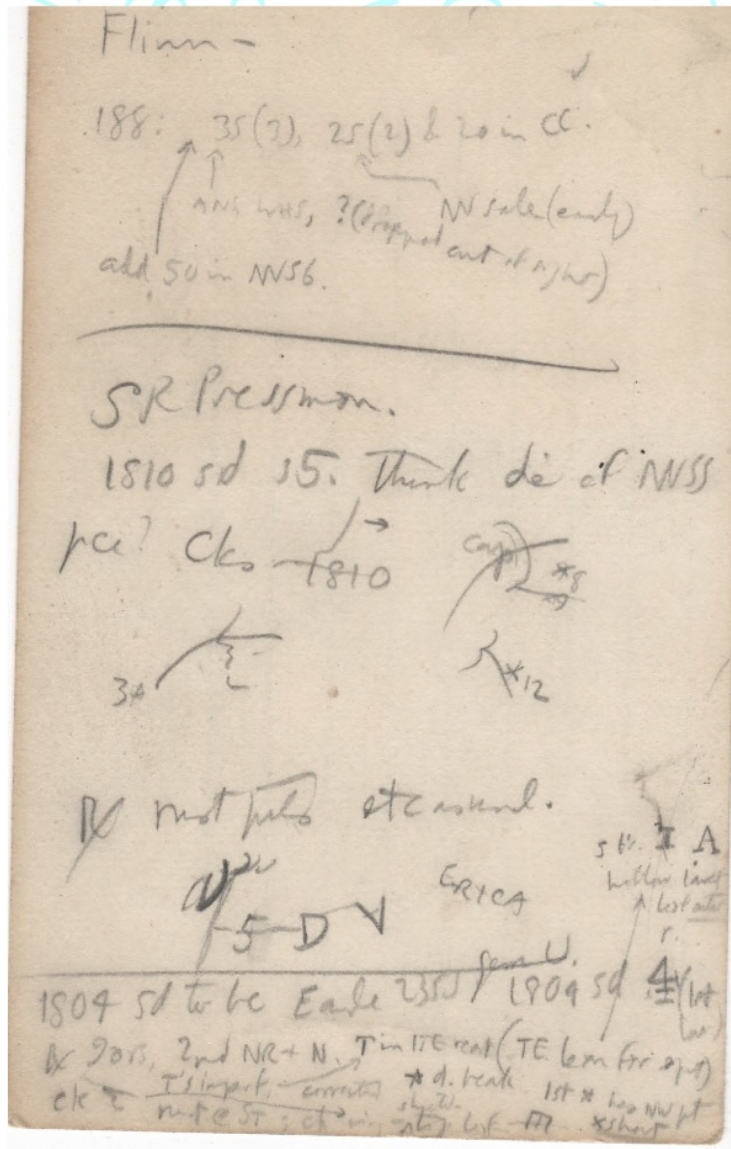
See important catalogs below for: Wayte Raymond's copy JCM 278th sale, lot 180, Small date XF, \$8.50.

NB:WBV#15p.5: For Clapp to Earle inventory see 1807 lower page.

Letter from W.K.Raymond 1 Jan. 67. page 1 concern: 1804 1/2 Cent. Page 2: [...] \$5. 1810 B1\_b Large Date, Small 5—only one variety for type You list only two auction records: Geiss 1676, Miami-FUN 4173. I suspect your listing is deliberately only partial[...] to prevent and/or prove plagiarism ? In my tiny library a cursory check discloses the following Roach 532, VG, Royal 3672, AU, Rovensky 4005, VF. How many more must therebe, both in the Mehl catalogues I don't have and in the J Kelly, Stack's, Bolender, Elader,



NB:WBV#17p.56 below N[ew] N[etherlands] sales 55 & 56. 1810 Small Date.



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—:317 \$800.00. “Large date, wide 5. Very Fine-35. Rim bruise over first T in STATES and on obverse left edge traces of file adjustment marks obliterate that beading[...].” —:318 \$525.00. “Large date, large wide 5. Fine-15. [...]tiny cut in edge below 81 in date and rim bruise over 3rd and 4th stars on left[...].”

DNV 1810. Large date and 5 D. Breen 1-A. At worst a thin hai”s [sic] breadth from Unc., faint handling marks. Shallow rim dent at 11th star. B0025.

DNV 1801. Another, same dies. Same grade and quality; traces of cleaning. Light rim nicks below 5 D. B0026.

DNV 1810 Small date, tall 5. Breen 2-D. Rev. of 1811. Sharpness between VF and EF, cleaned; rim nicks at 10th to 12th stars. Very scarce. B0027.

OC NN 1952 ANA:587 “1810 Large date. Extremely Fine and lustrous.” Sold to Dickens \$34. See Bib. below.

NN 47:1437 “1810. Large date; large wide 5 D. Pale greenish gold, evidently with native silver content. Uncirculated. Brilliant, but with traces of the usual handling and adjustment marks. Guidebook at \$75.00.”

See Ltr '64: WB to LE above as to LE's holdings and varieties.

Compare Harry Bass Collection below.

See Catalogues below: S Smith 5/55:1674 VIMP.

WB's annot. CSNA 10/1960:877 Listed as “Small Date.” Was Large Date act to WB, see Catalogues below.

|     |      |   |
|-----|------|---|
| 380 | 1810 | Small date, tall 5. <sup>clw</sup> Choice Uncirculated. Variety with E in STATES above B. Rarity 6. Sharp strike. <b>3D A7-</b>   |
| 381 | 1810 | Small date, tall 5. Choice Uncirculated. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pale orange toning. Faint die break at date and light adjustment marks barely noticeable over NITED. Very scarce type. <b>3D A7-</b> |
| 382 | 1810 | Large date, large 5. Reddish orange toned choice Uncirculated with very few handling marks. <u>borderline</u>   |
| 383 | 1810 | Large date, large 5. Choice About Uncirculated. Nice lustre and boldly struck.  |
| 384 | 1810 | Large date, large 5. 5 has closed loop and is probably recut. Choice Extremely Fine <b>VF. ef</b>   |
| 385 | 1811 | Small 5. Brilliant Uncirculated.  |

WB's annot. K 1/75: 380-84 above.



1811

III. is tall 5.



183

1 8 1 1

Mintage 99,581. Probably some of these were dated 1810, as the 1811 half-eagle is considerably rarer than the 1810 as a date, whereas from the mintages one would have expected to find about equal numbers of each. There are more 1810 1-A's than there are of ~~xxx~~ both varieties of 1811 taken together. Only one obverse die and two reverses, which is another clue; no ~~xxxx~~ instance is verifiable in the half-eagles series of this period of a single obverse die holding up ~~an~~unbroken through almost 100,000 impressions. ~~1813~~ might constitute an exception, however~~II~~, but again this date is probably ~~thirty~~ <sup>twenty</sup> times rarer than 1812.

B. 1-A. Tall 5. Clapp 2.

Obv. 1. Only a single obv. die for this date. Small numerals, as in 1808-9; they are apparently from the punches used to make the dates on the single dime obv. of this year. All four digits lean left; final 1's closer together than other numerals. N

Rev. A. Same as rev. D of 1810. Very tall 5, leaning right, and distant from D. This 5 touches border, and is much taller than the D.

R-4, nearer to R-5. Occasionally shows clash marks above date. ~~xx~~ Compare WGC 360, Melish 1925-27, "Cicero" 112, lot 371, NN 49<sup>th</sup> sale, etc. As with most ~~of xxx~~ half-eagles of this period, generally comes VF to Unc.

B. 1-B. Small 5. Clapp 1.

Obv. 1. Without and with clash marks above date. The dies may have clashed more than once, the traces of injury gradually wearing off or being repolished off.

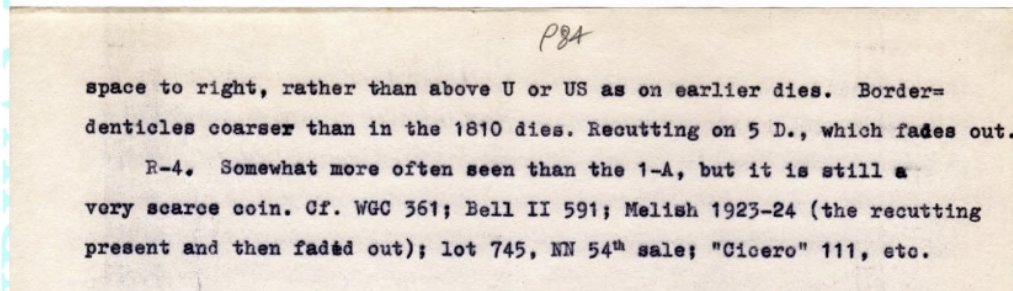
Rev. B. Small narrow 5, similar to that in rev. B of 1810, but a different die. 5 D. closely spaced, the following period high and the whole group very distant from leaf and unusually close to final A-- placed exceptionally far to right. STATES widely spaced and unusually close to OF; I below left upright of T, final S above S in motto and



### SMALL 5



Ill. is small 5. Breen 1-B, C-1. This style 5 continues into 1812. 3 in S.I..



PCA III 2/14/77:319 \$3,000.00. "Small 5. Mint State-65[...]." Plate.

### LARGE 5

Breen 1-A has reverse of 1810-D, but was struck before many 1810's with this reverse, as the 1810's often show signs of rust above eagle's head & neck. Of the reported 99,851 minted this year over half were dated 1810. Corrected from 99,581 & other earlier figures.



Breen 1-A: 4 in S.I..

OC NN 1952 ANA:588 "1811. Large 5. A shade better than Very Fine, but with a few unimportant defects, including a very light scratch or two in the left obverse field. Rather scarce." Sold to Cork \$30. See Bib. below.

See important catalogs below for: Wayte Raymond's copy JCM 278th sale, lot 181, Small 5D, EF, \$8.00.

PCA III 2/14/77:320 \$1,500.00. "Large tall 5. About Uncirculated-55. Clash marks above date and in field[...]" Plate. —:321 \$1,100.00. "Large, tall 5. About Uncirculated-50[...]" Plate. —:322 \$950.00. "Large tall 5. Extremely Fine-45[...].nick on edge over I in UNITED and pinpoint nick over AT in STATES[...]" Plate.



Ill. is small 5.



Ill. is tall 5.

NB:WBV#15p5: For Clapp to Earle inventory see 1807 lower page.

DNV 1811. Tall 5 Breen 1-A. AU, faint signs of cleaning. Weak feathers left of shield, as made. B0028.

DNV 1811. Tall 5. Another, same dies. Heavy clash marks from motto above date, from beak before neck, &c. Between VF and E [sic], light obv. pin scratches. B0029.

DNV 1811. Small 5. Breen 1-B. Sharpness of AU, signs of cleaning; part of left rev. field scraped to efface a cut. B0030.

Compare Harry Bass Collection below.

|     |      |  |   |
|-----|------|--|---|
| 385 | 1811 | Small 5. Brilliant Uncirculated. Beautiful yellow frosty gold strike. Weakness on part of edge above head due to die failure.  | ✓ |
| 386 | 1811 | Large 5. Brilliant Uncirculated. Nice pale orange bloom. Faint traces of clash die, especially noticeable above date. Recut 5 and D. Rare and seldom seen this nice. | ✓ |
| 387 | 1811 | Large 5. Nice Uncirculated with faint handling marks. 5 and D recut.   | ✓ |

WB's annot. K 1/75:385-87 above.

Elder 10/1908:27 VF. \$9.50 Chapman. —:28 F. \$6.75 John.



1812



Ill. is small, wide 5 D. Breen 1-B, C-2. 3 in S.I..

1 8 1 2

Mintage reported as 58,087. As this date is very much commoner than 1811, and perhaps twenty times commoner than 1813, probably many coins delivered in 1813 were from 1812 dies. One obverse and two reverse dies again, but this time they do not so readily fit the description or "major" varieties. Instead of large and small 5's, we have only wider and closer 5 D. The small 5 continues.

B. 1-A. Close 5 D. Clapp 1.

Obv. 1. Only one obv. die for the year. Large numerals, the 8 and 2 apparently those used on the cent obverses. All digits lean left, as in 1811. (Leftward digits are a peculiarity of many dies of all denominations from 1809 through 1812. Was there a left-handed employee in the Engraving Department during that time?)

Rev. A. 5 D. closely spaced. I in motto below right foot of T; U ~~mark~~ below space between ES, these positions somewhat similar to those found on rev. A of 1810.

R-4, possibly R-5. Cf. Melish 1928-9. Earlier thought commoner, but auction records are too infrequent to support that conclusion.

B. 1-B. Wide 5 D. Clapp 2.

Obv. 1. Later, showing one or more sets of clash marks: motto above ~~mark~~ and within date, traces of eagle left and right of Miss Liberty, etc.

Rev. B. Widely spaced 5 D., more than the width of D apart. I in ~~mark~~

Ill. is small,



close 5D. Breen 1-A, C-1. 2 in S.I..

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□ motto below serif of E; final S directly above U. STATES rather closely spaced and quite distant from OF. Doubling, apparently from recutting, on ~~AE~~ AMER, on the very earliest die states; this quickly fades. Later, clask marks appear. ~~fix~~

R-2. One of the most frequently seen half-eagles of this design. Cf. Judd 65, unc.; WGC 362; Bell II 593; Melish 1930-34; etc., etc. Melish 1930 was a double- or triple-struck freak--a most unusual item for gold coins.



Ill. is wide 5 D.

Breen 1-B: Many Unc's., apparently from an old hoard. See Bib. WB's copy G.E.N.A. P.T.A. 1-B 9/1974:1906.

NB:WBV#15p.5: For Clapp to Earle inventory see 1807 lower page.

PCA III 2/14/77: 323 \$900.00. "[...]Extremely Fine-45[...] wide 5 D[...]" Plate. —:324 \$925.00. "Extremely Fine-40 Widely spaced 5 D. Faint edge bruise over final S in STATES[...]" Plate. —:325 \$450.00. "Fine-15[...]. [ED.?close; wide?].

BMM 3/23/48:3677 "As Near a proof as I have ever seen[...]" \$46.00.



DNV 1812. Wide 5 D. Breen 1-B. At most a thin hair's breadth short of Unc., lustrous; tiny rim nicks above AME. B0031.

DNV 1812. Another, same dies. AU, dull (from cleaning?), mny [sic] light obv. adjustment marks. Ex. "The N.Y. Auction featuring the colls. of Paul and Jack Bortin":114. B0032.

Compare Harry Bass Collection below.

KS 4/3-4/59: "[...]Just a shade from Uncirculated[...]." WB in pencil: "(weak RTY).

|     |      |  |    |      |     |
|-----|------|--|----|------|-----|
| 388 | 1812 | Lustrous About Uncirculated. Large date leaning to the left. Beautiful pale yellow gold toning. Ex-H Chapman - envelope and ticket enclosed. | 1B | 4748 | 115 |
| 389 | 1812 | Attractive About Uncirculated. Very sharp strike.  | ef | 1B   |     |
| 390 | 1812 | Choice Extremely Fine. Nice strike.  | ef | 1B   |     |

WB's annot. K 1/75:388-90 above.

B. 1-B detailed description see Bib. below. WB's annot. G.E.N.A. P.T.A. 11/1975:1479, 1480, 1481.

B. 1-A, B. 1-B high grade described in detail in WB's copy P.T.A. Breen 2 6/75:359-363, VIMP.

Elder 10/1908:29 Five distant from D. AU. Plate. \$8.25 John. —:30 Five closer to D. F. \$7.50 Jackson.

## CAPPED HEAD LEFT 1813-34



Ill. is Breen  
6 in S.I..

1-A,  
None with

C-1.  
1814 rev..

1813

Mintage 95,428. 1813

New design, presumably by Reich. Obverse shows head of Liberty, without drapery, on a much larger scale than previous profiles. The cap is much more close-fitting. Curls somewhat resemble those on the 1807-12 design but are not identical. Rounded truncation of bust shows. This head continued to be used until 1829, in which year modifications of design appeared in the new hub introduced by William Kneass. Stars were no longer divided 7 + 6 but rather form a continuous line around and above head. Dates are larger than on previous years except for 1810 and 1812. The eagle is also ~~as~~ different in minor details, most noticeably at <sup>wing</sup> feathers nearest ~~xxx~~ his body; shield is smaller, arrows much wider and more spread apart, motto letters taller, claws much larger and the individual ones more spread apart, leaves longer and wider, etc. Border denticulation on both sides is much more coarse than formerly.

The half-eagles from 1813 through 1834 first type (with motto) are all far more rare than one would expect from the mintages, only a few dates being at all often offered (1813, 14, 18, 20, 23, 26). As the mintages were not ~~so~~ much smaller than former ones, ~~xxxx~~ nor was the gold appreciably softer, nor did any design feature contribute to abnormally rapid wear, we must seek other causes for the unusually low Characteristic Ratio (Number Surviving / Number Minted).







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rather than by tale) being freely ~~made~~ in either direction at convenience. As the ~~the~~ supply of silver increased in proportion to gold, the same amount of gold would buy more silver, or what is the same thing, a given amount of silver would buy less gold. Gold therefore tended to be hoarded rather than sent to mints for coinage at former standards. By the mercantile theory, wealth was equated with actual possession of the precious metals. Any economic situation which resulted in a large outflow of either precious metal to another country was discouraged. Foreign trade with the United States ~~was~~ as with other countries--was manipulated by Britain in such a way that preferentially the balance would over the years ~~result~~ in ~~inflow~~ of precious metals to Britain rather than out of that country. The small coinages ~~from~~ of gold from 1814 through 1829 inclusive reflect this state of affairs. Larger coinages from 1830 on at least partly represent gold discoveries in Georgia and the Carolinas. At the same time, ~~the~~ the Bechtlers were coining the local product into gold coins of their own design; since these did not imitate the United States ~~mint~~ mint product, and were of good weight and reasonable fineness (considering the primitive equipment available to the Bechtlers), successive Mint Directors made no objection to the practice.

When Congress finally passed the ~~the~~ Act of June 28, 1834, reducing the weight of the gold coins, the "old tenor" gold of 1795-1834 with motto became worth over ~~the~~ 6% premium in terms of new gold, and millions of dollars' worth were sent ~~in~~ to the Mint for recoinage in the next few years. (Further details on this will be given under 1834.) These recoinages ~~account~~ account for ~~the~~ the rarity of many dates in the 1821-34 Type I period.

It is probably significant that the vast majority of half-eagles between 1813 and 1834 Type I are in Extremely Fine to Uncirculated condition. This immediately tells the story: they circulated very



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briefly or not at all before going to banks, estates, or collectors' cabinets (many of the latter in England), where they stayed for decades longer before reaching numismatic circulation. British collections have been the source of many a rare half-eagle within the last century; American gold coins were probably very seldom seen over there, and were promptly snapped up. To the present day the Sotheby and Glendining auctions frequently feature rare early United States gold, some of it in mint state or near that level--coins not previously recorded here. The famous Murdox sale of 1903 was exceptionally rich in such material.

For 1813 only a single die variety is now known, though Edgar H. Adams claimed two reverse varieties. The variety here described is Adams 2, Clapp 1, Newcomer 94. In ANS 1914, Woodin loan, were two 1813's described as having slight variations in reverse. (The other is the unseen Adams 1.) A possibility is that one of the Woodin coins might have been plugged and reengraved so as to produce such differences--a cause which accounted for the alleged second variety of the 1826 quarter eagle.

B. 1-A.

Obv. 1. Date well spaced, 18 a trifle closer than other digits. 3 almost touches curls.

Rev. A. Larger 5 than on former reverses except for 1810 D = 1811 A; this 5 resembles that found on 1815 quarter dollars and half eagles. Arrows at about right sides of uprights of R and I, almost or quite touching both. 5 close to leaf. I below right edge of upright of T; S above US.

R-5. Almost all seen are in the EF to Unc. range. A rare coin, though probably not R-6. At least one specimen was altered to "1815".

Dies by Reich: Notch on one point of star 13.

EXIMP: See Bibliography below for WB's original ms. concerning information found in Adams NB's.



B. 1-A, note arrowhead positions.



In WB's vast number of photos BV found this non-marked: The different reverse, Rev. B (1-B). Compare it to other dates: 1813 & earlier, 1814 (not '14) & later.



Note arrow tip below upright of R.

Breen 1-B described in G.E.N.A. P.T.A. 9/1974:1907 details in Bib. below. "... variety not in the original monograph...S beginning above center of E in motto. ..." confirms photo.



See important catalogs below for: Wayte Raymond's copy JCM 278th sale: lot 182 EF, \$8.30.

NB:WBV#15p.5: For Clapp to Earle inventory see 1807 lower page.

PCA III 2/14/77 "Beck" had 4 pcs. Lots 326-29.

NN 47:1438 "1813. New type; larger head (continuing to 1829, in which year the Kneass improvements appeared on the gold coins and half dimes). Lustrous Unc. Now listed to \$110.00. Ex Elder." \$95.00.

DNV HEAD LEFT. 1813. Not in Breen [1977]. Differs from Breen 1-A by having S(T) above right part of E in motto. AU, brilliant, light handling marks, abrasions on and r. of cap, scratches before face and above UNI; better looking than it sounds. Very rare, first variety of the year. B0033.

DNV 1813 Breen 1-A, rev. of 1814. S(T) above upright of E. Better than EF sharpness, but loop removed with supreme skill; scratch above eagle's head, shallow rim dent opposite wingtip at left. Rare, much better looking than it sounds. B0034.


KS 4/3-4/59:2654 "[...]Choice Uncirculated. Mint bloom[...]."

See Catalogues below: S Smith 5/55:1678.

See WB's annotated CSNA below 10/1960:878 "Heavy obv. dent".

Compare Harry Bass Collection below.

1A = 1/4  
1B = none



Lot No. 391

|     |      |   |    |                  |
|-----|------|---|----|------------------|
| 391 | 1813 | New type. Large head. Very much sought-after "type". Attractive Uncirculated with mint bloom. You have your choice of eight pieces – an unheard of opportunity! | 1B | AU+              |
| 392 | 1813 | Choice Uncirculated. Attractive toning. Scarce this nice.   | 1B | AU               |
| 393 | 1813 | Brilliant Uncirculated. Light yellow gold and full mint bloom. Weak area below left wing; balance of strike sharp.  | 1A | AU++<br>strike   |
| 394 | 1813 | Brilliant About Uncirculated. Mint lustre.  | 1A | ~ loop           |
| 395 | 1813 | Choice About Uncirculated. Very pleasing appearance and unmarred surfaces.  | 1B | ~                |
| 396 | 1813 | Brilliant About Uncirculated. Nice strike with considerable lustre still adhering.  | 1A | A: 393 in strike |
| 397 | 1813 | Shade from About Uncirculated. A lovely specimen. Worth a premium bid.  | 1B | sf+              |
| 398 | 1813 | Sharp Extremely Fine. Very faint handling marks.  | 1B | ~                |

WB's annot. K 1/75: above.

B. 1-A, B. 1-B in high grade described in detail in WB's copy P.T.A. Breen 2 6/75:365-5 in Bib. below.

Elder 10/1908:31 EF. Plate. \$6.75 Mitchellson. ---:33 VF. \$7.50 Jackson. —:33 F. \$6.35 Coin.



1814



2 in S.I.  
Ill. is overdate. Breen 1-A, C-1.

1814

Mintage 15,454. Only one die variety known, and it is an overdate, 1814/13. As in 1809, later die states show only microscopic traces of

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the original digit.

B. 1-A. 4 over 3; reverse of 1813.

Obv. <sup>1.</sup> Date is 1814 over 13, but this is not the same die used on the known 1813's. The 3 is farther from the curls, and 18 are wider spaced. Later die states show clash marks, the strongest ones being stripes of the shield in Miss Liberty's ear. Afterwards, the die was either repolished or worn down; the clash marks are now much less prominent, and the traces of 3 (principally its upper right corner) are almost invisible at 4. Claims of perfect date varieties, here as in 1809, invariably refer to these late states. The last specimens show crack through 14 (e.g. Atwater 1633).

Rev. A. Same as 1813 Rev. A. Now sometimes with clash marks, but these are never strong.

R-6, borderline. Not impossible at the upper border of R-5, and we may never know exactly. I can account for about twenty specimens in all, at least five or six of them being uncirculated, the rest mostly EF with a few VF's and a few AU's.

Dies by Reich: Notch on one point of star 13.  
Possibly 0.2% of mintage remain extant.  
See Bibliography below; 1814/13 EXIMP.

**4 OVER 3**



See Bib. below WB's copy P.T.A. Breen 2 6/75:366 —:367 in high grades described in detail.

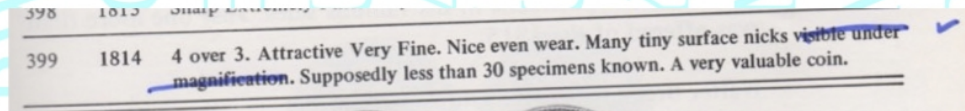
NB 97:50 Byron Reed coll. 1814 \$5. U sharp.

See important catalogs below for: Wayne Raymond's copy JCM 278th sale, lot 183, VF, \$20.25.

NB:WBV#15p.5: For Clapp to Earle inventory see 1807 lower page. Compare Harry Bass Collection below.



KS 4/3-4/59:2655 'CU'.  
 See Catalogues below: S Smith 5/55:1679.  
 BMM 1950:350 'U'.



WB's annot. K 1/75: 399 above.

## Want of Gold Deposits 1814.

Small mintage of gold, due to small deposits: QE 1809-20 & E 1805-37 = 0.  
 Small gold deposits in Jan.-May 1814 < \$9K; June & Aug. 1814 Bank of P.A.  
 gold deposits (two) \$46.5K.

| Warrant # | Date    | Struck |
|-----------|---------|--------|
| 707       | 3/28/14 | 3,155  |
| 709       | 4/2     | 709    |
| 718       | 7/29    | 3,028  |
| 719       | 7/30    | 5,100  |
| 724       | 9/12    | 2,875  |
| 726       | 9/19    | 690    |
|           | Tot.    | 15,454 |

1815



1 8 1 5

Mintage 635. I went to considerable trouble to find the story behind this mintage, particularly the reasons--if any--for its small size. So far as I know ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ the story has never been published anywhere. Readers of my Silver Coinages monograph will know some of it already--in particular, why <sup>neither gold nor silver</sup> ~~it~~ ~~was~~ ~~coined~~ ~~in~~ ~~1816~~ ~~ANY~~ ~~was~~, and why no gold in 1817--but the part of the record having to do with gold was not published in that monograph. I reproduce it here, from Bullion Journal "C", in the National Archives.

June 24, 1815. Thomas Parker deposited 3 standard gold valued at \$337.44.

July 3. Charles Kalkman deposited gold valued at \$1054.

Oct. 30. The Bank of Pennsylvania deposited gold valued at \$328.03 1/2.

The same day, the Treasurer of the Mint sent to the Melter & Re-





by Reich: Notch (near lower outer) point of star 13.

finer the above collection of gold coins and bullion, debiting him with  
together with some 1814-deposited  
\$1719.47<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> in gold. This lot--~~apparently xxxxxxxx~~ gold then in the  
mint--went through the normal processes.

November 3. The Coiner struck and delivered 635 half-eagles plus three extra for assay (these were tested by the Assay Commission on Feb. 13<sup>12</sup>, 1816, together with \$2 in half dollars and quarter dollars). Sundry Accounts were paid, including the three abovenamed depositors, plus \$16.71 compensation being retained by the Mint for xxf expenses of refining substandard gold which had to be brought up to fine. Dec. 31. \$3661.33 fit for coining remained in Coiner's hands uncoined. Jan. 11, 1816. A fire in the rear building of the mint damaged

rolling and cutting apparatus sufficiently to make any further coinage of gold or silver impossible until extensive repairs could be made. Cents could be coined, and were, ~~xxx~~ because the mint imported the planchets readymade. However, the precious metals were normally deposited in various forms and conditions, requiring to be melted and cast into ingots, rolled into coin-thick strips, and cut into blanks of proper size. Damage to rolling mills or cutting presses would make coinage impossible. The Mint Director ~~ga~~ took this opportunity to institute a program of mechanical improvements, including among many other things much heavier and more efficient rolling mills,~~xxx~~ which required fewer passes through them to bring ingots down to proper thickness to ~~xxxx~~ cut and coin.

Only a single variety of this year. Now that a piece altered from 1813 has been discovered--I have seen a color transparency of it from Ed Schuman--any specimen alleged to be of 1815 must be authenticated, as other alterations may exist.

B. 1-A. Ninth star almost touches ~~XXXX~~<sup>CAP</sup> rev. of 1813-14.

Obv. 1. Date similar to that on the quarter dollars. 13<sup>th</sup> star closer to hair than in 1813; 9<sup>th</sup> star almost touches cap.

later found out this rev. was second var. of 1813.



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Rev. A. Same as 1813 A = 1814 A. No clash marks visible.

R-7, <sup>low</sup>~~xxxxxxx~~ It is a matter of doubt whether twelve or only eleven specimens survive of ~~xxxx~~ the 635 originally minted; ~~xxxxxx~~ and rumor, as always, would have it that a few others are ~~xxxx~~ still around unaccounted for. But as four of these coins are impounded in museums, and probably some of the others of unknown present location are in estates, the coin's Rarity 7 status remains uncompromised and undoubted. That even eleven or ~~twelve~~ specimens are traceable will come as a surprise to many collectors and possibly as a rude ~~in~~ shock to those dealers who have been accustomed to offer ~~1815's~~ every few years with the claim that only four, or five, or six are known. The 1815 is such a well-publicized item (largely because of its spectacular low mintage) that as complete a provenance list as I could compile will be worth giving here. That it is not more complete can be ascribed to several factors, most notably the identical condition of some specimens making them impossible to tell apart without direct comparison, and the reuse of old cuts from one catalogue to another, and the lack of interest in pedigree displayed by some dealers.

The known 1815's are as follows.

1. Smithsonian Institution, on loan from the Mint Collection, bought for the Mint account ~~by~~ at an auction, December 4, 1885, for a then high \$299. Uncirculated.
2. Swedish Mint Museum, Stockholm. Formerly the property of the King of Sweden (which one?). Uncirculated.
3. Johns Hopkins University collections. ex John Work Garrett estate, ex Thomas Harrison Garrett. Unc.
4. Hartford State Library, Hartford, Connecticut, ex J.C. Mitchelson estate. Unc.
5. Eliastberg, ex John H. Clapp. Unc.
6. Baldenhofer 1232, ex King Farouk, ex E.H.R.Green. "AU."
7. Amon Carter, Jr., of uncertain provenance, but claimed to be



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unc. This may be the "H.R.Lee" coin, ex Eliasberg, John H. Clapp, Chapman ca. 1909, and possibly Parmelee 894, ex Mendes I. Cohen, 1875.

8. Atwater 16384, <sup>ex Newcomer,</sup> ex Col. James W. Ellsworth via Wayte Raymond, ~~NEWCOMER~~ William H. Woodin, H.E.O. Granberg, B. Max Mehl 1912. Called, variously, "AU" and "Practically Unc."

9. George Walton estate, ex Dr. Clifford Smith 1680, ex ~~xxxx~~ Davis-Graves 1447. Unc., tiny edge nick opposite second leaf group.

10. Untraced, ex ~~xxx~~ Virgil Brand, 1909. Unc. (?)

11. Untraced, ex James Ten Eyck, 1922. Nearly unc. (Was this in Bell I, 1944?)

12. The former Clinton Hester coin, ex "Memorable" 314 (1948); the cut used for this coin was also used for Menjou 1460, making provenance impossible to establish. ~~xxx~~ Unc., more or less, with rim nick just left of 5 on reverse.

A thirteenth specimen is rumored to exist, said to be in well worn condition--the only one known so (Fine or VF).

It is singular that of the dozen known, at least six different ones have been described as finest known at one time or another. This is perhaps understandable when one realizes that most specimens surviving are uncirculated and the differences are infinitesimal--and that most dealers would not have seen more than one of these in a generation, close-up enough to compare even by memory any given one with another.

Updated/revised ca. 1985 from ms'. damaged in flood #1 &/or #2.. Employment of a light table, a little basic chemistry & magnification restored some data. Much of the type entry of this study on U.S. gold, all denominations, was recovered in this way. Some info. & photos were damaged beyond use.

W. Breen wrote in a developing style. He thought an outline mentally, he wrote a rough-draft (suitable as a final for most people) then revised, revised, revised. In his notebooks he stated about every five years he was ashamed of the writings of the past 5 years, 1960, 1965, 1970[...].

See numbers above, below is updated &/or corrected information.

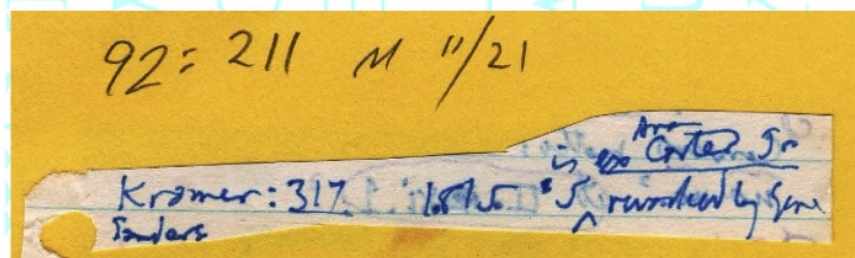
1) Unchanged, but additional info.: 8.749 grs. 155 degrees rotated.

2) Unchanged.



- 3) W. Elliot Woodward, Harold P. Newlin, THG, JWG, JHU, Garrett:460, \$150,000.00, Auction 84:901, \$79,750.00. Borderline Unc..
  - 4) Unchanged, but add: loop removed.
  - 5) 1884 Massamore, Elder 1917, W.J. Jenks, Herman Ely, H.P. Smith:204, "VF," \$1,050.00 (from Chapman Bros., May 1906), private collector, Stickney:660, \$2,000.00 (1907), EF, Menjou:1460. [T.H. Garrett fits in somewhere].
  - 6) Col. Mendes I. Cohen:638, Parmelee, Chapman (ca. 1909), John H. Clapp, Louis Eliasberg (duplicate), "H.R. Lee," private collector Borderline Unc..
  - 7) This #8 above B. Max Mehl (1912), H.O. Grandberg, W.H. Woodin, Col. James W. Elsworth, Knoedler Galleries, Wyate Raymond, Waldo C. Newcomer, William Cutler Atwater, Carter:655, \$57,750.00. AU.
  - 8) H.P. Smith, J.H. Clapp, Eliasberg:370, \$71,500.00 Unc..
  - 9) Is #6 above. Waldo Newcomer, Col. E.H.R. Green, Farouk, Spink:234, N:767.
  - 10) W.G. Baldenhofer, AU. "Ex farouk."
  - 11) This is #9 above. H.P. Graves, Dr. Clifford Smith [See Catalogues below S Smith 5/55:1680], George Walton estate. 1976 ANA:2935, \$75,000.00, Stanley Kesselman, R.E. Naftzger, Brent Pouge. Unc., rim nick opposite second leaf group.
  - 12) This is # 11 above. James Ten Eyck (sold by Mehl in 1922), Col. James W. Flanagan, "J.F. Bell: (Jacob Shapiro), "Memorable":314, Clinton Hester, Lilly, S.I. 8.727 grs. 155 degree rotation, AU+, rim nick just left of 5 in value. Kagin 111:1819 of Dec. 31, 1951 called Unc., may be the same as others listed above, possibly numbers 6, 11, or 12.
- Which is #10 above 12 above ms. is indeed 12 below.
- This equals herding a clowder of felines. And the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principal!: I know where it is, not where it came from; I know where it came from, I know not where it is! [Photons] Yes, records from many sources and years, there are inaccuracies.....

Is this 1815 or





1875, see 1875 & verify. I can't locate catalogue.

87: ENCY 1815<sup>95</sup> CEC/amp-E is ex  
 104 Search P.  
 6/1 Jenks, Ely → H.S. Adams (with w/only)  
 T.H. Smith → H.S. Adams 12/84 → Elder  
 2/07 → where?  
 Cohen → ?  
 98 S. Gayle r.s. HPS - Historical Sale  
 = (3/11/83) n. ill. untraced  
 (3 Foster Ch)

NB 87:104

104  
 106  
 F  
 2  
 20  
 CT [Hyman?] Weisman?  
 1853/2 USAOG 10 (P) ex Z, Cd f  
 Bill E: 1043  
 1051 TR 22  
 1860 13 (P) to PCCB "only  
 one copy has been seen."  
 : 338 1815<sup>95</sup> to CT [Weisman?]  
 343 21 - " "  
 348 27 - " "  
 351 29 II - " "

NB 104:106.

NB 53:65 1815 \$5 ACjr, K Lipton(sic?), KG, Gene Sanders. Looks to be #7 on original ms. above.

Among collectors of coins in the early 1900's, among questions asked: What is the most desirable & rarest half eagle? The answer invariably was the 1815. At the beginning of the 2000's the answer is the 1822, due mostly to research. However the 1815 remains a famous rarity. Mehl's 1941 sale of the William Forrester Dunham Collection contained a 1822 but no 1815.

Primary source, NB's, scraps of papers, envelope reverses, Breen archives. Revising the ms. above.

- 1) Mint, S.I.. Purchased by auction Dec. 4, 1885 \_\_\_\_, for the mint cabinet. Unc..
- 2) Swedish King \_\_\_\_ which one?, to Swedish Mint Museum, Stockholm. Unc..
- 3) W.Elliot Woodward, H.P. Newlin 10/31/1884. Johns Hopkins...the Garrett family.
- 4) HSL, from J.C.M.
- 5) Harlin P. Smith (Chapman Bros., May 1906), J.H. Clapp (1942), to Eliasberg.
- 6) As above, B:1232, KF, E.H.R.G..
- 7) Carter, as stated above.
- 8) No changes.
- 9) No changes.
- 10) No changes.
- 11) No changes.
- 12) No changes.
- 13) No changes.

Forgeries exist: Altered final digit of genuine 1813's, examination of the reverse is of no help: the same reverse was used on most 1813's and all 1814-5 coins. Look for monkey business around date with high magnification. Star positions: 1813, 2nd & 5th (clockwise, counting lower left star as #1), respectively, aim at above center of dentil & between dentils; on genuine 1815, these stars, respectively, aim at bottom & center of dentils. For the 'Second Variety' see above ms. text p. 90 paragraph #3. In 1958 Breen wrote this in one of his NB's: 1815 \$5: Die-struck forgery, oversize

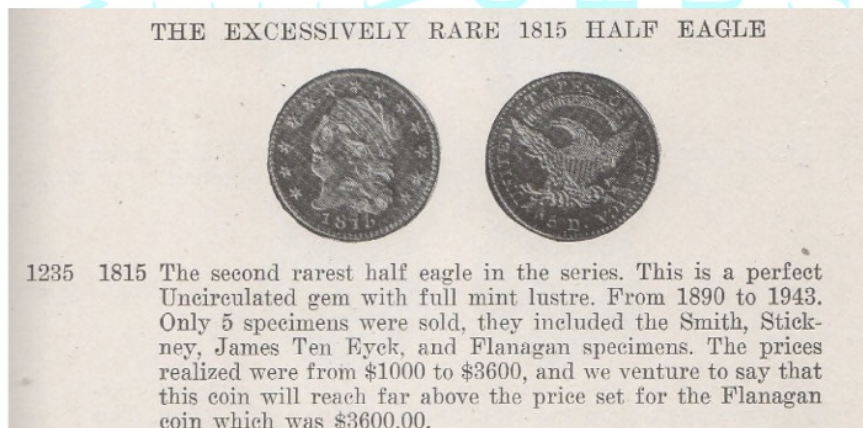


(26mm), head larger than genuine coin, stars smaller, numerals in ruder style, border dentils and edge reeding much finer than genuine; leaves are blunt, letters crude (especially R), & eagle is without lower beak.

NB 89:81 \$5 1815 "vf" (in>ef) TH Garrett, Mason's 1884...Elder 1917. ... a.c.t.o. CWAC many rare early US AV coins turned up in Europe 1979-80, stimulated by higher AV bullion prices.

NB:WBV#15p.5: For Clapp to Earle inventory see 1807 lower page.

Below: "H.R. Lee" S 10/47:1235 realized \$2,950.00



Cohen:138 below.

1799 \$ -> Fresh 1799 \$

|                    |             |             |             |         |            |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------|------------|
| Cohen              | 138 1815 15 | 180 1839 15 | 240 1854 15 | 609, 12 | 27, 29     |
| 145                | 25/4        | 196 1829 26 | 536 1840 15 | 621-2   | 36, 46, 16 |
| 149                | 29 8        | 199 32      | 543 45      | 624     | 38         |
| 146-7-8, 26-7-8 PS | 227 59      | 548 49      | 627         | 39, 45  |            |
| 130-54 30-34 PS    | 238 59 83   | 554 53      | 635, 46     | 46, 53  |            |
|                    |             | 556, 3      | 54, 6       | 649     | 5          |

BMM A.Carter 10/55:205 "1815 This is one of the very rarest of all U. S. \$5.00 gold pieces. Uncirculated with semi-proof surface; only the highest portions show slight cabinet friction. One of the great rarities of the series."

Compare Harry Bass Collection below.

1818



Ill. is Breen 1-A, C-1.  
**NORMAL DIES**

1 8 1 8

Mintage 48,588. The head used on these coins and later ones through--apparently--1829 first type ~~was~~ differed from that used for 1813<sup>3/4</sup>-14 coins. The differences are slight and require a glass and direct comparison of coins to notice. Most of them are in the central curls, which show much more details in the later head, and a trifle less high relief. Notice particularly the curls below ER, above ear. The eagle appears to be the same as on earlier dates. *Border denticles are finer.*

Three varieties for this date: wide 5 D., close 5 D. and very

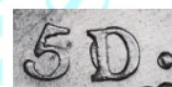


Dies now by Robert Scot.

Ill. is close 5D, STATESOF  
Breen 2-B, C-1.

o n e w o r d .

**STATESOF (ONE WORD)**



Ill. is

5D/50 Breen

3-C, C-3.



## 5D OVER 50

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close 5D/50. The last-named seems to be a blundered die--a zero was first punched in, as though the engraver were making a 50% reverse, then corrected to a D. This die ~~was~~ was also used in 1819.

B. 1-A. 5 distant from leaf, 5 D. wide, STATES OF normal. A-2; C-2; N-98.

Obv. 1. First ~~xx~~ star fairly near bust, similar to 1815; about its own diameter away, no more. 13<sup>th</sup> star nearly touches curl from the side at right. First 1 away from bust. Later, break from rim to 6<sup>th</sup> star, cap, curls, final S and frim.

Rev. A. Rather widely spaced 5 D. as in 1815, the 5 distant from leaf--about its own width away or a trifle more. STATES OF normally spaced, somewhat similarly to 1815; I in motto directly under upright of T, final S above S and space ~~to~~ left. *Arrows to center of R and left part of C.*

R-6, high, possibly low R-7. Cf. WGC 366, Donlon 1366, Melish 1940. This is the variety alluded to as no. 1 of the year in ANS 1914, Woodin loan. The notation on WGC 366 is mysterious and apparently confused. That lot, with the die break, is claimed to be from entirely different dies from lot 365, with differently placed letters. Lot 365 is pictured, does not show the break (though possibly the cut is as fault here), and appears to be from the identical dies 1-A just described. As 366 is not pictured, the source of this confusion is in doubt. I would not use this as evidence for a fourth variety.

B. 2-B. S T A T E S O F one widely spaced word; closer 5 D., close to leaf. A-3; C-1; N-99.

Obv. 2. First star very distant from bust, nearly twice its own diameter away. 13<sup>th</sup> star more than a millimeter away from right side of curl. *81 almost touch. First 1 nearly touches bust.*

Rev. B. S T A T E S O F spaced as though one seven-lettered word, the S far from wing, the F close to wing. I in motto not under T at all



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butx under right tip of A; final S not over US but rather over first U of UNUM, which is a most anomalous position. 5 D. closely spaced, the 5 much less than its own width away from leaf. Arrows to right stand of R and between IG.

R-6. ~~Byxxx~~Least rare of the 1818's, but a most distinctive type. Judd 72, unc.; "Cicero" 114; Gaylord 314; Bell II 597 (which claims a hairline obverse crack not showing on the plate or on any specimen known to me); variety #3 of ANA 1914, Woodin loan.

B. 3-C. Close 5D/50. A-1; C-2; N-97.

Obv. 3. Stars more widely spaced than on preceding dies. First star a little more than its own diameter away from bust, ~~xxxxx~~ similar to obv. 1; 13<sup>th</sup> star just touches curl from below, and ~~only~~ close to numeral 8-- only a little more than the width of the 8 away. Date spaced as in obv. 2, but first 1 not so close to bust.

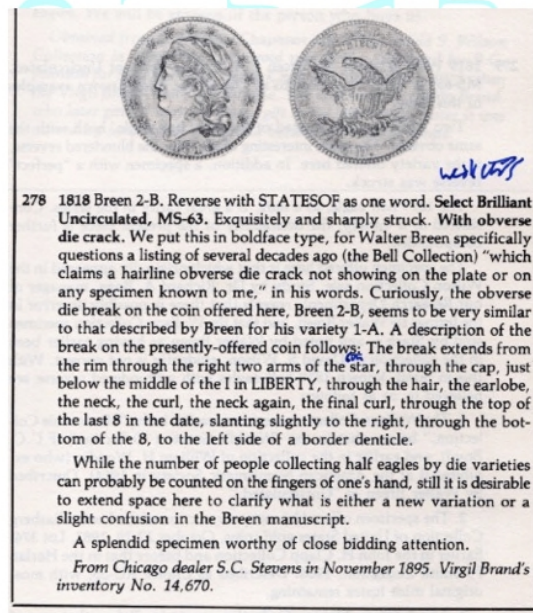
Rev. C. Very closely spaced 5D, <sup>close to leaf,</sup> the D over a zero; small dot above upright of D, in field. Leaf unusually close to U. STATES OF distant from each other, the words closely spaced. I in motto below upright of E; final S above second U in PLURIBUS and space left. Arrows to slightly past center of R and ~~between~~ IG.

R-6, rarer than 2-B, possibly a little less rare than 1-A. Cf. NN 54<sup>th</sup> sale, lot 748, where this variety was publicized as a blundered die for the first time since the H.P. Smith sale of 1906. Compare also ~~xxxxxxx~~ <sup>unc.</sup> Donlon 1365, / <sup>unc.</sup> G.H. Hall 1891 (probably the Col. Green coin), Miami-F.U.N. sale, lot 4180, / Woodin had one ex Parmelee 904, VF. In NN's Numisma, vol. 3, no. 2, March 1956, lot 23876, was a BU specimen, apparently ex Melish 1939. Lester Merkin ~~formerly~~ owned another uncirculated piece. The most distinctive of the 1818's.

Garrett:461 is B. 1-B. And hagel:614 (4 Landmark coll. B&M 3/1989).  
2-B is Randall, Clapp, Eliasberg:372, see WB invitation to Eliasberg. Ren,  
Melish:1940, N:768.  
1-A is Clapp, Eliasberg:371, AU.



Breen 3-C Discovery coin H.P. Smith (1906), Clapp, Eliasberg:373, Unc., \$39,600.00; rediscovered (by Breen, from memory from the Eliasberg coll inspection, WB wrote catalog for NN) NN:748. NN:12/15/56, N:769. Mint, S.I.. Green, Weihman, Lilly, S.I.. Rev. C a.k.a. "Blundered die", see 1819.



“weak letters.....6th.....”

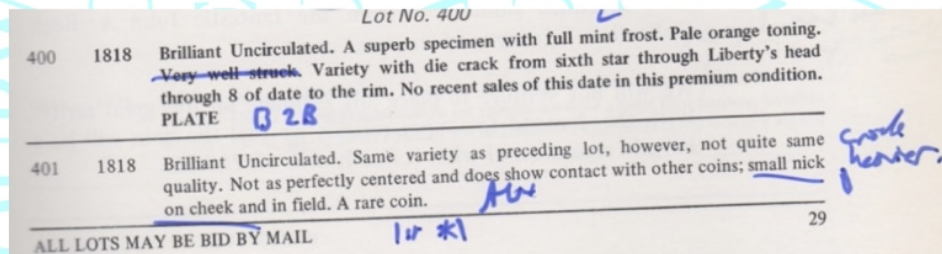
Walter Breen’s catalog V. Brand sale Part 1, November 1983, B&R. All of the following V. Brand catalog annotations by Breen are for historical purposes only.

See important catalogs below for: W. Raymond’s copy JCM 278th sale, lot 184, VF, rev. damaged by mounting \$10.00.

NB:WBV#15p.5: For Clapp to Earle inventory see 1807 lower page.

Compare Harry Bass Collection below.

See Catalogues below: S Smith 5/55:1681 '[...]plugged between 8 & 9th star[...]'].



WB's annot. K 1/75:400-1 above.

B. 2-B described in WB's copy P.T.A. Breen 2 6/75:368 in Bib. below. B. 3-C in high grade, ditto.

WB: B. 3-C, 2-B "Missmade".



1819

Ill. is 1-A.



1819

p95

Mintage reported as 51,723. Not impossibly many of these were dated 1818; on the other hand, the numbers surviving of all dates from now on ~~xxxx~~ through 1834 first type bears little relation to the mintages -- the Characteristic Ratios are infinitesimally small anyway, in the neighborhood of the following figures:

1819--0.02%  
1820--0.1%  
1821--0.05%  
1822--0.02%  
1824--0.05%  
1825--0.1%  
1827--0.05%  
1828--0.05%

and so forth. These are among the smallest survival percentages known in American coinage.

The date 1819 is chiefly notable for the reappearance of the 5D/50 blundered die.

B. 1-A. 5D/50. Adams 1; Clapp 1.

Obv. 1. First star a little closer to bust than usual, about its own diameter away or minutely less. 13<sup>th</sup> star presents two points to cutl, both ~~xy~~ very close, the upper more so. In date, numerals seem to be the ones used on small date cents, the first 1 almost touching bust.

Rev. A. Same as reverse C of 1818. 5D over 50, the D much too close to 5 and with a dot above the upright.

R-7. ~~Th~~ the best of my knowledge, exactly five specimens survive. I list them in apparent order of condition. (1) Wolfson 361, ex "Memorable" 316, WGC 367, Woodin (exhibited at ANS 1914 as variety #2), D.S. Wilson sale in 1907. Unc., choice. (2) Eliasberg, ex John H. Clapp, H.P. Smith<sup>207</sup>. Ex. Fine or so. (3) Unknown present owner, ex "Menjou" sale, lot 1403, Charles M. Williams collection, Dunham 2091, Stickney<sup>662</sup> (1907). ~~ex~~ Fine. (4) Unknown present owner, said to be a Texas oilman, via Stack's, ex NN 49<sup>th</sup> sale, lot 376, Louis Eliasberg, "H.R. Lee" ~~main~~ 1237, Col. Flanagan sale, Earle 2386. EF plus, lustrous, minute repair at



## 5D OVER 50

See identical reverse die 1818.

p96

top obv. (not visible clearly from either side). (5) Unknown present owner, ex ~~XXXXXX~~ Jan. 1963 Schulman-Kreisberg sale, lot 1966, "Oregon consignor", Atwater 1636, Carpentier collection. VF. The cut in the Atwater sale is the one from the Dunham ~~XXXXXX~~ sale, but the descriptions enable correct pedigree to be made. (6) *Unk. provenance, shown only Ronnie Carr, Feb. 1965. Would be better than EF but played those times.*

B. ~~H~~-B. First star away from bust; normal 5 D. A-2; C-2.

Obv. ~~H~~ 1. As last.

Rev. B. 5 D. moderately closely spaced, the 5 ~~XXXXXX~~ nearly twice its own width away from leaf. I in motto below left tip of E; S above U and space right. Arrows to r. of center of R and between IC, favoring C. R in AMERICA tilts left, its left base below that of E, its upright about parallel to that of E.

R-7. Possibly five or ~~six~~ are known, but pedigrees are more difficult to trace. The finest one appears to be the one in the D<sub>W</sub>. Clifford Smith sale, lot 1682 (1955 NY Metropolitan Convention). ex Davis-Graves sale, lot 1449, ex R.Coulton Davis, supposedly from John W. Haseltine in 1881. It is uncirculated. One other uncirculated piece is known--Parmelee 909--but its present owner is uncertain (was it in the Walton estate?). Col. E.H.R.Green had two specimens of this date, at least one of them of this variety, ex Newcomer, Woodin (privately via B.Max Mehl about 1914), Mougey 1670. Amon Carter Jr. has a VF which may or may not be of this variety; I have not had opportunity to see the coin.

B. 2-B. First star practically touches bust; normal 5 D. A-3; C-3.

Obv. 2. Distinguished from all others by having first star practically touching bust, somewhat similarly to ~~several~~ 1820 dies.

Rev. B. As preceding.

R-8. The only one traced is Ten Eyck 185. This sold for \$900 plus 5%, and was subsequently resold privately at \$3000. It is believed to have gone to Newcomer and then to Col. Green; later history unknown.



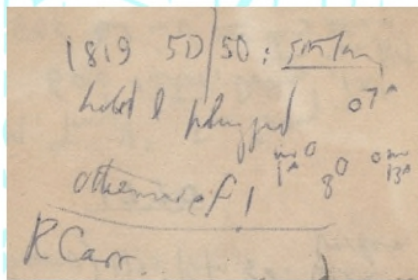


Ill. is 1-B.



“clash in shield”.

Walter Breen’s catalog annotations V. Brand sale B&R Nov. 1983.



NB:WBV#2 Artyfact is 6th specimen.

Collector Circulation [early nomenclature], &/or Condition Censes [later].  
All to follow.

CC:

1819 ? Which var.? A) Woodin (ANS 1914), F.C.C. Boyd, WGC:\_\_, Wolfson, Unc..A-1. B) Stickney (Chapman 6/1907 \$2K), Dunham:2091 via Mehl, CM:\_\_ WMS, Mengan. C) Earle:\_\_, "VF.", Eliasberg. D) Carpenter, Atwater; \_\_, "Oregon Colby" [is #5 ms. above: 1-A], H.R. Lee; NN:49 EF+. KS 1/1965, VF.

Ms. #4) "[...]minute repair at top obv. [...]" is George H. Earle:2386 6/1912. Newcomer specimen was a private sale via. BMM 1914.

B. 1-A: Possibly 7 known, these below probably are same as above & on ms., not in the same order. 1) Mint, S.I.. 8.738 grs. 350 degrees rotated.

2) J.J. Mickley, W.S. Appleton, Woodward (1/27/1883) T.H.G, [JHU] Garrett:462, \$85,000.00, R.E. Naftzger, Brent Pogue, Unc..

3) Is #2 above. H.P.S was Chapman Bros. May 1906 sale, \$1,050.00.

4) Carter:656, \$23,100, VF..

5) D.S. Wilson:\_\_, Brand I:279 \$55K, Auction 85:1914 \$66K, Unc..

6) Lilly, S.I. 8.738 grs. reverse rotated 160 degrees.

7)

H.P. Smith sale (#2 ms. above) \$1,050.00, Eliasberg:374.

M.A. Stickney sale 1907 \$2,000.00.

B. 1-B. Farouk:236, N:770 Unc..

B. 2-B: Ten Eyck:185 (Mehl 5/1922 sale \$900.00 another record shows this at \$2,200.00; then later offered privately \$3K). 1976 ANA:2936, #34,000.00 Unc.. Auction 79:1230, \$31,000.00, impaired.

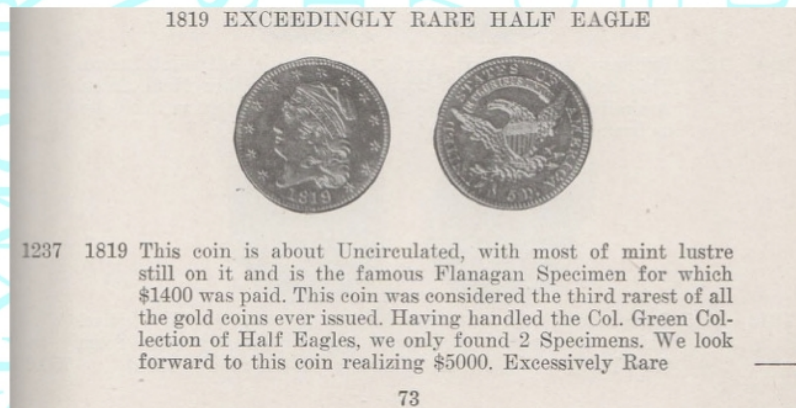
NB:WBV#15p.5: For Clapp to Earle inventory see 1807 lower page.

NB:WBV#17p.5: 1819 5D/50 ex Brand U Auc85:1914 \$60,000



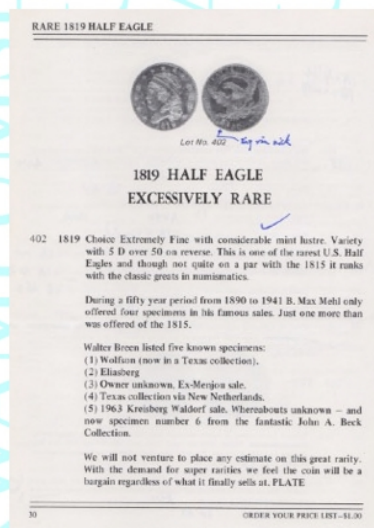
See Catalogues below: S Smith 5/55:1682 for WB's comments on Smith, Davis-Graves piece. **VIMP.**

Below: "H.R. Lee" S 10/47:1237 realized \$1,250.00.



Norweb sale 1987 Part 1 page 239 lists 1819, photo is 1828. Page 253 list is 1828, photo is 1819.

Compare Harry Bass Collection below.



WB's annot. K 1/75:402.

WB: B. 1-A "Missmade."

Ill. is sq. 2, B. 2-A.



1997

R-6. Proofs: Melish 1945 and one or two others seen. Uncirculated:





Ill. is square base 2. 1-A, Unc..

P98

Bell II 598; "Memorable" 319 ex WGC 369, and several others. Doubtless this variety has been confused with 2-A and 2-B, both of which are deceptively similar.

B. 2-A. 82 closer, 13<sup>th</sup> star touches curl; top of E low. ~~XXX~~.

Obv. 2. Very similar to last. 82 in date more closely spaced. 13<sup>th</sup> star touches curl.

Rev. A. As preceding.

R-7. M No proofs of this variety. Melish 1946, cleaned unc., and Wilson 71 seem to be the only ones definitely identified, but others probably exist.

B. 2-B. 82 close, 13<sup>th</sup> star touches curl, base of E high. C-4 (?).

Obv. 2.

Rev. B. Similar to preceding. 5 D. about equally low. Base of E in STATES noticeably above bases of T-S.

R-6, possibly high R-5. Cf. Brand-Lichtenfeld 2390, VF; Dunham 2092, AU; 1957 ANA 1988, unc.; D. Clifford Smith 1683, EF; Gaylord 315, Unc.; Wolfson 364, unc.; Miami-F.U.N. 4181, unc.

Type II. Curled curve-based 2, large letters.

B. 3-C. 8 in line; large letter. C-1.

Obv. 3. Widely spaced date, 18 closer together than other digits.

The 2 has curled top and curved base; 8 is in line with ix 1 and 2. First star on this and obv. 4 closer to bust than in previous dies, being less than a millimeter away. (It is still closer on obv. 4.)

Rev. C. Large letters, as on revs. A and B. First T in STATES too low, its base well below those of SVA. STATES OF AMERICA almost touch border. Base of E in STATES high, its top in line with those of T-S. I in motto below space between TE, favoring the T. S above US, serif of S above right upright of U. 5 D. widely spaced, the period rather distant from D. Arrows as in revs. A and B.



P99

Melish 1942.

R-6. Proofs: WGC 368, reappearing as "Memorable" 318; Business strikes: NN 49<sup>th</sup> sale, lot 377, ex Eliasberg, "H.R. Lee" sales, Dunham 2093, unc.; G.H. Hall 1892 (probably one of the Col. Green coins); WGC 363; Geiss 1688 ex Col. Green; Gaylord 316; and others.

Type III. Curled 2, small letters.

B. 4-D. 8 low; small letters, arrow to C. A-5; not in C.

Obv. 4. Base of 8 lower than 1-2; 182 also ~~is~~ more closely spaced. Curl begins over middle of 2, whereas in obv. 3 it begins well to left of center of 2. First star still closer to bust--less than a millimeter away, and almost equidistant between border and bust (slightly nearer border).

Rev. D. Small letters, TES about the same ~~is~~ height. 5 D. closely spaced, the 5 close to leaf. I below right arm of T; S above S and space left. Arrows to ~~xtail~~ tail of R and left curve of C, and very close.

R-6, high, nearly R-7? Proofs: ANS 1914, Woodin loan; Melish 1943, ~~XXI~~ ~~XXI~~. Business strikes: "Memorable" 317; Baldenhofer 1234; Melish 1944.

B. 4-E. 8 low; small letters, arrow to I. Clapp 2.

Obv. 4.

Rev. E. Very similar to last, the 5 closer to leaf. Arrows to r. tip of stand of R, and r. tip of I, practically touching the latter. Letters placed about as in rev. D. ~~Earl~~

R-7, low (?). "Melish 1944"; Earle 2388. Reuse of old cuts in the Melish catalogue, not matching the coins, proved confusing here too. A 4-E is illustrated as Melish 1944, but the actual coin was a duplicate of 1943, not proof.

There may be still other varieties of Types II and III.

For Adams NB's (2-B) see Bibliography below.

**CURVED BASE 2,  
SMALL LETTERS**





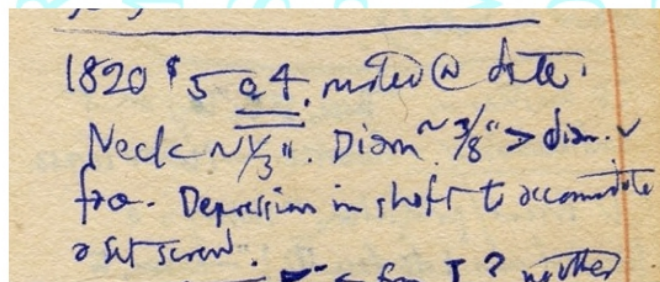
**SQUARE BASE 2  
LARGE LETTERS**



Ill. is a **proof**. Type II. Large letters. B. 3-C, C-1.



Square base . Reverse A, low D. .



NB 80:47. Rusted[...].

Letter & numeral punches in this period were made by Henry Starr.

Flat-based 2, large letters.

2-A Green, Weihman, Lilly, S.I..

2-B Mint, S.I..

Which var's.? Dohrmann[sic?], Garrett:463, \$13,000.00 AU.

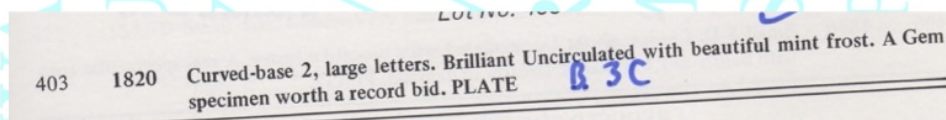
Spedding, Clapp, Eliasberg:375, \$9,900.00, Unc..

Carter:658, Unc., \$17,600.00. BMM A.Carter 10/55:208. 'U'.

JCM#311, 10/18/33:219 "1820 Square base 2. Ex. fine barely circulated.

Rare. *Illustrated.*" \$100.00.

BMM A.Carter 10/55:207 "1820 Square base 2. Small 0 in date. Beautiful uncirculated with semi-proof[...]."



Curve-based 2, large letters. 3-C.

Green, Wiehman, Lilly, S.I..

REM, Melish:1943, N:772 (Proof).

Mocatta, 1979 ANA:149, \$27,000.00 Proof.

Is Auction 82:1928, \$14,500.00 Unc. ex Boyd?.

Which var's.?

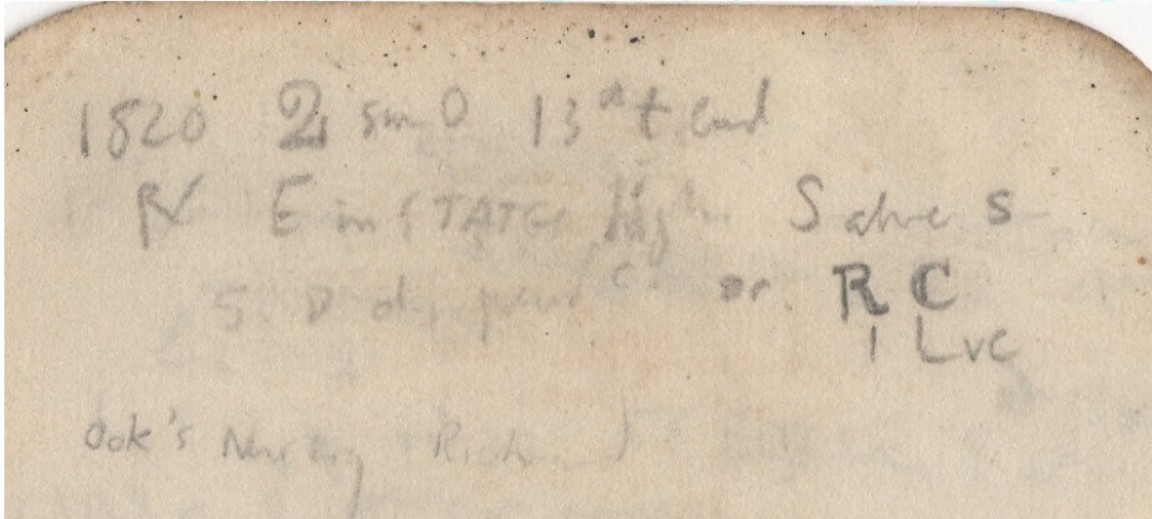
Curve-base 2, small letters. 4-D.

Green, Weihman, Lilly, S.I..

Eliasberg:376 \$26,400.00 Unc..



“H.R. Lee” S 10/47:1238 “1820 Curled base 2. Brilliant Uncirculated[...]. Dunham specimen” \$175.00. Plate. —:1239 “[...]Square base 2. Uncirculated, but not brilliant[...].” \$150.00. Plate.



NB:WBV#4: 1820 2 (square base) sm(all) 0 13th \* t(ouches) curl.  
RV E in STATES high S above s  
5 D cl(ose) period c. ar(ows) [tips point] R C vc (very close).

**Proofs:** 3 known of each: Flat based 2, large letters; Curve based 2, large letters B. 3-C; Curve based 2, small letters B. 4-D. [See also P bk. ms.].

NB:WBV#15p.5: For Clapp to Earle inventory see 1807 lower page.  
Compare Harry Bass Collection below.

WB's annot. K 1/75: above.

B. 2-B detailed description see Bib. below, WB's annot. G.E.N.A. P.T.A.  
11/1975:1482. Ditto P.T.A. Breen 2 6/75:370-1.

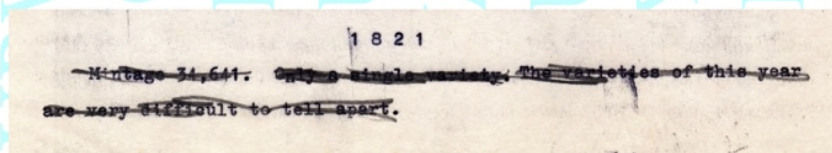
1821



Ill. is Breen 1-A, C-1.



Ill. is a **proof**. [2 known]. [See also **P** bk. ms.].  
For Proof, see NB 104:106 at 1815 above.



Possibly 0.1% of mintage remain extant.

For additional information concerning Adams NB's see WB's original ms. in Bibliography below.







P101

B. 1-A. 82 even, base second 1 low, 13<sup>th</sup> star almost touches curl and points to space between denticles.

Obv. 1. ~~Die is high and higher, opposite die is 22~~  
~~shxxxxx~~. First star not quite as close to bust as on the other two dies of this year--about 2/3 mm away. 82 even at tops and bases; base of second 1 low, compared with base of 2, but ~~it~~ farther from denticles than is base of first 1. 13<sup>th</sup> star points to space between denticles, and its opposite point is extremely close to curl but not quite touching.

Rev. A. 5 D. closely spaced, the X 5 about equidistant between leaf and D. I in motto below end of r. arm of T; S above S and space to left. Arrows about as in reverse E of 1820, but lower arrow not quite so close to "I."

R-7. Cf. Dunham 2094, Wm AU or so; WGC 370 (cut used again in "Memorable" sale at lot 320), reappearing as Baldenhofer 1238--AU but small horizontal nick about a millimeter above top leaf; Earle-Flanagan-Eliasberg--"H.R.Lee"--NN 49<sup>th</sup> sale, lot 378, VF.

B. 2-A. Low 8, leaning r.

Obv. 2. Very similar to last. First star about half a millimeter from bust. The two 1's about equally far from denticles; 8 low, leaning right, its top and bottom below those of 2. Base of second 1 minutely above that of 2. 13<sup>th</sup> star not as close to curl as on preceding obv., perhaps 1/3 mm away, its opposite point to a space.

Rev. A.

R-7, rarer than 1-A or 3-A. The James Lawson coin, in 1947 ANA convention sale, unc., was from these dies; the same cut was reused on Melish 1947 but I do not know now recall if it was from these dies. I was unaware of more than one obverse having been used until very recently. Bell II 599 is also from these dies; ~~it~~ unc.

B. 3-A. Base of second 1 high, 82 even and close, 13<sup>th</sup> star touches curl.

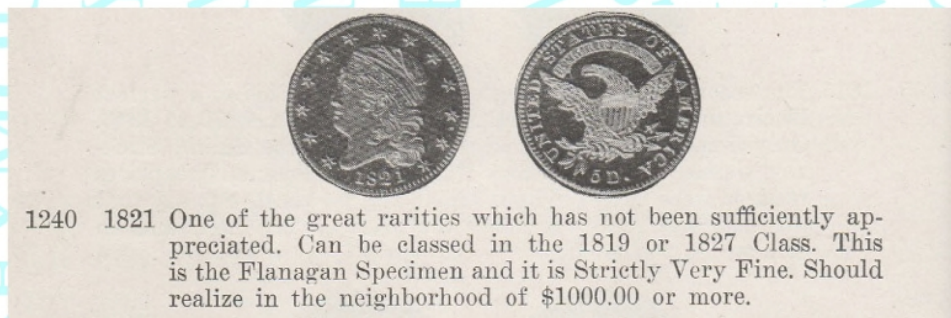




Which var. is H.P. Smith, Clapp, Eliasberg? WB's invitation notes 1953: He knew of no details to dies vars., is this E:377, Unc., \$28,600.00?

2-A: Green, Weihman, Lilly, S.I. 185 degrees rotated.

Below: "H.R. Lee" S 10/47:1240 Realized \$800.00.



Also: BMM 6/12/1951 Rappaport-Field:2025 \$5 1821 'U'. Hereafter BMM 1951:\_.

BMM A.Carter 10/55:209 'U'.

**Proofs:** B. 3-A: Base of second 1 high, star 13 touches curl. 1) [3 known] 1) Mint, S.I. 160 degrees rotated, 3-A. 2) Randall:927 (1885), Woodin , Newcomer, Col. Green, B.G. Johnson, Farouk:237, N:773. Illustrated 1914 ANA, plate 15. 3)\_

Compare Harry Bass Collection below.

See Catalogues below: S Smith 5/55:1684.



1822



1 8 2 2

Mintage reported as 17,796. Possibly some of these were dated 1821. Only one variety, described below; only three genuine specimens verified to exist, and I have examined all three. The W.H.Woodin manuscript (ca. 1909-10) alluded to a fourth, of unknown provenance; and Dickeson (American Numismatic Manual, 1859, 1860, 1865) claimed ~~that~~ that this date ~~was~~ existed in two varieties. I strongly suspect that the fourth specimen is the Parmelee ~~pin~~ counterfeit, and that ~~this~~ item accounted for Dickeson's mistake. For details on the

Genuine survivors number 4 pieces.

P103

Parmelee counterfeit, see below, after description and provenance of the three genuine ones.

B. 1-A.

Obv. 1. Closely spaced date, from the date punches used on the cents of the year. First star very close to bust, 13<sup>th</sup> still closer to curl.

Rev. A. Answers the description of the 1821 reverse, except that (1) Period after D is an ellipse with long axis vertical, rather than horizontal as in 1821; this period also seems slightly less high. (2) Left tip of E in STATES over space between IB and only microscopically right of r. tip of I in motto, whereas in the 1821 reverse the E is entirely above B, and right tip of I is well to left of left tip of E.

R-8. Only three specimens known, one of them impounded in a museum. (1) Smithsonian Institution, on loan from the Mint Cabinet. VF. This piece appears to have been one of those given to the Mint Cabinet in 1838 by Adam Eckfeldt. Since Eckfeldt, as Coiner, did not usually withhold regular business strikes, but rather saved samples of proofs together with such odd pieces as came in mingled with regular deposits, the presumption is that this coin was brought in to the Mint as regular old-tenor gold for recoinage, some time between 1834 and 1838, and Eckfeldt recovered it as a date needed for the collection. (2) Louis Eliasberg, ex Horace Louis Philip Brand, ex Virgil Brand estate. Extremely Fine, sharp. Earlier provenance unknown, though rumored to have come from Europe, probably after 1933. The coin was not known to Newcomer, who was until his suicide in 1933 a "price-no-object" customer who spent some \$990,000 on one of the most fantastic collections of rarities ever assembled. Sale price not publicly acknowledged, though rumors have ranged from \$12,500 to \$50,000. Ex H.L.P.Brand, who used to advertise that he dealt only with dealers, at one time priced the 1822 amt \$14,000--in retrospect hardly exorbitant. This piece is pictured in the brochure describing Eliasberg's collection (ca. 1952).



P10A

(3) Amon McCarter, Jr., ex his father's estate, ex Dunham 2095 at \$11,575, ex Harlawn P. Smith 212 (1906) at \$2165, bought by Smith years before as an ordinary piece of old-tenor gold at \$6.50. VF-EF, tiny ~~mark~~ dent in 4<sup>th</sup> vertical stripe of shield. Pictured in the Guidebook, the Standard Catalogue, the Dunham and Smith catalogues, and in the Parmelee sale of 1890, ~~for~~ the latter for a very interesting reason. When David Proskey and H.P. Smith obtained the Parmelee collection for auction, they discovered that Parmelee's 1822 was a counterfeit. Smith then placed his own 1822 in the sale as lot 938, bought it ~~in~~ at \$900 (detractors claimed that this was to give it a ~~new~~ pedigree), and returned it to his own collection. The real motive seems to have been to leave no gap in the date sequence of Parmelee coins.

I have seen two counterfeit 1822's, both of them oversize. One is, or at least was, in the Stack reference collection of counterfeits and forgeries. (J.B. Stack used to exhibit the collection at local club meetings and give lectures about the various kinds of counterfeits therein represented.) This one is thought to be the Parmelee piece, as much Proskey material found its way to that firm. The other one was shown me ~~by~~ many years ago by a Boston dealer at a local auction. As the impossibly large diameter of these coins is a dead giveaway, no collector familiar with the appearance of any half-eagles of this period should be deceived should a third specimen turn up.

Another story is told about the Smith-Dunham 1822. About 1908 ~~or~~ -1910 a representative of J. Pierpont Morgan repeatedly called on William Forrester Dunham, having learned that he had bought the 1822 at the Smith sale, and ~~now~~ offered Dunham large sums of money for the coin; the final offer--refused--was \$35,000. This story, many times quoted, and sometimes told also about the Smithsonian's 1849 double eagle, reappeared in the Dunham catalogue, this time with corroboration from the late J. Henri Ripstra, sometime ANA president and internationally



P105

honored medallist, as an eyewitness. Due partly to the romantic history of this coin, and to the publicity surrounding its appearance in the Dunham sale (the \$11,575 there paid for it by Amon Carter was then a record price for any American coin), and partly to the various stories told about it, this particular 1822 has become probably the most famous single American gold coin aside from the Smithsonian's 1849 double eagle. Estimates of its probable auction price, should it ever again come up for sale, have ranged from \$30,000 to \$100,000. Needless to say any such estimate is pure guesswork.

Updated roster mid 1980's.

- 1) Same as above, but additional info.: 8.766 grs 160 degree rotation, 25 mm.
  - 2) On the back of a U.S. Senate envelope mailed to Breen[...]Earlier provenance unknown, add Joseph J. Mickley (private), W.S. Appleton, W.E. Woodward, M. David[...]then Brand(s), A. Kossof, \$14,000.00 (1945) Additional scrap of paper & annot p.551: Hiram E. Deats, Frossard III:130 (6/9/1892) "VF", could say "VP".
  - 3) Add 8.731 grs. 180 degree rotation, 25.1 mm..
- See Bibliography below for Adams NB's concerning #4.  
NB:WBV#17p.5: 1822 see CW 8/7/85 CWAC.

Misc. WB autograph ms.: 1822 Dunham, Wm', Mehl, AC Sr., -Jr., S, Lilly, SI  
Compare Harry Bass Collection below.

BMM "Dunham" catalogue 6/1941:2095. Mehl claims: First record of a sale of 1822 HE 1906 (this coin) Harlan P. Smith Sale (SH & H Chapman lot 210). Bought by William Forrester Dunham, \$2,165.00. Dunham told BMM a few years later J.P. Morgan offered \$35K. [...] Steigerwalt book {1884} 'but two known'. WB said BMM's honesty is always in question, take his statements with caution.



The EXCESSIVELY RARE FIVE DOLLAR GOLD PIECE of 1822

Lot No. 210

(The original specimen known as the Dunham specimen. Originally sold by B. Max Mehl in the great Dunham Sale, June 3, 1941)

The History, Pedigree and Rarity  
of This Great Coin

We have authenticated history of numismatics in this country for a period extending back to about 1817—one hundred and twenty-four (124) years (as shown here later). And during all these years—extending over a period covering more than a century—there is only one record of this great coin having ever been offered and sold. This was in 1906, when this identical coin was sold in the Harlan P. Smith Sale. It was bought by William Forrester Dunham in whose collection it remained until 1941, a period of thirty-five years.

The Sale, as mentioned before, was that of the famous Harlan P. Smith Collection. It was catalogued and sold by the then long-established firm of Numismatists, S. H. H. Chapman, in Philadelphia. The coin was catalogued as Lot No. 210 and described as follows:

"—of highest rarity, surpassing all other dates of this denomination. We know of but three specimens: U. S. Mint, Virgil M. Brand, and the present example was in the Parmelee Sale, 1890, where it was loaned by Harlan P. Smith to take the place of Parmelee's specimen which has proved to be counterfeit".

The price paid by Mr. Dunham was \$2,165.00, which was, up to that time, the highest price a single United States coin ever sold for! We must remember also that this was, in 1941, thirty-five years ago!

A number of years ago, while in Chicago, Mr. Dunham told me that some year or two after his coming into possession of this great coin, a representative or agent of the late J. Pierrepont Morgan, called on him and urged him to part with the coin, finally offering him Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars cash for it. This incident was later, and just recently, verified to me by Mr. Henry Ripstra of Chicago (immediate Past President of the American Numismatic Association), who informs me that he was present in Mr. Dunham's office when the offer was made by the representative of "Mr. Morgan.

Another most interesting incident relating to the great rarity of the 1822 Half-Eagle is that of a letter written by the great Numismatist, Matthew A. Stickney, Salem, Massachusetts, bringing out the fact that through all of the recorded numismatic history of the United States, extending over a period of One Hundred and Twenty-four years, not a single other specimen of the 1822 Half-Eagle has been offered for sale.

1823



Ill. is Breen 1-A, C-1.

1823

Mintage 14,485. Only one variety. For some unknown reason, this is one of the more easily obtained dates in the 1820's. Oddly enough, unlike 1824-~~1825~~ or any later date through 1848, not known to exist in proof, /I have seen about two dozen specimens and can well believe that there are double that number around. Date punches are the same as those used on the cent.

B. 1-A.

Obv. 1. First star almost touches bust, about as close to it as 13<sup>th</sup> star is to curl. Very closely spaced date, almost in a straight line and nearer to device than to border. 8<sup>th</sup> star practically touches both cap and border.

Rev. A. Very similar to the 1821 and 1822 reverses, but not the same as either of them. 5 D. extremely similar in placement to the 1820, but E in STATES is placed as in 1821. Arrows at r. ~~stands~~ of R and I, but a little left of extreme ends of stands. Legend very close to border.

R-5. There are at least eight or nine brilliant uncirculated specimens around, and more than that number of EF's and AU's. As many of the uncirculated specimens are flawless gems, each as indistinguishable from the rest as so many new cents from the same roll, the attempt to trace pedigrees has been fruitless.





See Bibliography below for WB's original ms. concerning description.

2 in S.I..

Garrett:465, \$10,000.00, AU.

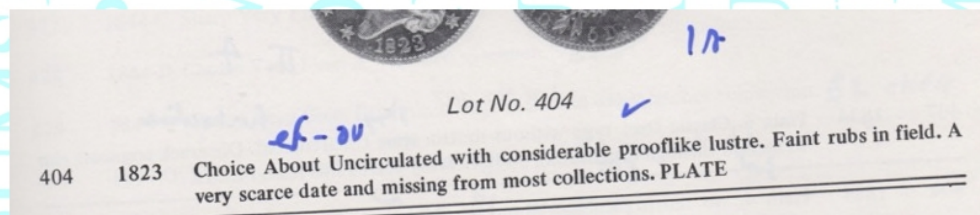
Baldenhafer, N:774.

JCM#311, 10/18/33:220. Unc., plate. \$125.00.

**Proof:** Revised. [1 known] One reported in Randall sale of 1885:928, untraced; unless it is Golden I:2484. No die details available. [See also **P** bk. ms.].

See Catalogues below: S Smith 5/55:1685.

Compare Harry Bass Collection below.



WB's annot. K 1/75:404 above.

See Bib. below for WB's copy P.T.A. Breen 2 6/75:372-3.

1824

Ill. is Breen 1-A, C-1.



P106

1824

Mintage 17,340. The dies of this year do not differ in style from those of earlier years, though William Kneass had been appointed as Engraver in January 1824,<sup>x</sup> and Christian Gobrecht had been commissioned to furnish letter and numeral ~~pl~~ punches. Only a single variety.

B 1-A.

Obv. 1. ~~xx~~ Closely spaced date, the 18 least so; numerals from the punches used on the cent. In all respects save for date itself, this die matches that of 1823.

Rev. A. Same as 1823 reverse A.

R-7, low. One known in proof, and others are mostly in uncirculated condition. ~~xxx~~ W. L. Newcomer's inventory spoke of six or eight being known; I later traced seven ~~xxx~~ for the NN 49<sup>th</sup> catalogue but found I had forgotten Eliasberg's original coin. To date, the enumeration stands as follows: (1) Smithsonian, on loan from Mint Collection; hairlined proof. (2) Eliasberg, ex Clapp, ex W.P. Brown; unc. (3) NN 49<sup>th</sup> sale, lot 379, ex "H.R. Lee", Louis Eliasberg, Dunham 2097. Unc., minute scratch near M of UNUM. (4) Omaha City Library, ex Byron Reed, ex Parmelee 951. More or less unc. (5) Amon Carter Jr., ex his father's estate; believed to be Atwater 164<sup>unc.</sup> ~~xxx~~ (6) Dr. Clifford Smith 1686, ex WGC 372. This is unc. with a small spot near border between second and third stars. It is believed to ~~xxxx~~ be the coin reappearing as Miami-F.U.N. 4183. (7) Melish 1949, AU ~~xxx~~ or thereabouts, believed to be ex "Memorable" <sup>Possible reappearance: 1957 ANA Conv. sale, lot 1990.</sup> 322. (8) Bell I, reappearing in the Jerome Kern sale; unc. (9) One other unc., formerly in the Col. Green collection, pictured as the G.H. Hall coin, unc.; this may have been the piece in the May 1959 Penn-Ohio sale, lot 1982, and is believed to be Bell II 601, though illustrations do not permit certainty. (10) Wolfson 367, VF; not earlier recorded.



**Proof:** [Unique] Mint, S.I., cleaned. [See also **P** bk. ms.].

Green, Weihman, Lilly, S.I., Unc..

For #6 on ms. above see Catalogues below: S Smith 5/55:1686.

“H.R. Lee” S 10/47:1242 “[...]Brilliant uncirculated. Perfect Gem with full mint lustre. This coin brought \$525.00 in one of the Max Mehl Sales[...].” \$525.00.

NB 97:50 Byron Reed coll. 1825 \$5 AU?.

BMM A.Carter 10/55:211 ‘U’.

Compare Harry Bass Collection below.

1825

1825 P107

Mintage 29,060. As in the quarter dollars of this year, all specimens known are overdates. In the Stickney sale (1907) Chapman estimated that not more than a dozen survived of this date. That is a little optimistic, but not very much so. A fairer estimate might be 15 to 20. The date is undervalued in comparison to others, most notably 1821. Two varieties are definitely established. ~~xxxxxx~~ The 1825/24, with the 4 plain within the 5, is known only by the unique ~~xxxxxx~~ proof in<sup>m</sup> the Eliasberg collection. All others so far seen are from the die most commonly referred to as 1825/21. In the 1947 ANA Convention sale, lot 690, was a plugged piece claimed to be different from the usual 1825/21, "most likely over a 23." I have not seen this coin, ~~despite~~ my plea in the Scrapbook. If the coin actually proves to be different from either obverse herein described, it deserves to be publicized.

B. 1-A. 1825/24. Clapp 1.

Obv. 1. 4 shows plainly within 5 of date, both upright and crossbar being clear.

Rev. A. Close 5D., a little farther from leaf than on previous dies, and very much farther from final A, about twice the width of the D. Letter positions much as before. Arrows to tail of R near its end and about center of base of C, very close to both and nearly touching the C. Letters are from a different set of punches, slightly smaller, somewhat like the small letters dies of 1820.

R-8. The only specimen verified to exist is in the Eliasberg collection, ex John H Clapp, ex Earle, ex M.I.Cohen sale (1875), lot 145.

B. 2-A. 1825/21. ~~xxxxxx~~ Clapp 2.

Obv. 2. Within the 5 is a vertical line which is thought to represent a 1. If it is the upright of a 4, then any trace of crossbar must have been polished off the die.

**Proof:** [ 2 known, 1 in S.I.] 1-A.: Add Eliasberg, ex Clapp, ex Earle:2394, ex Col. M.I. Cohen:145. 1825/24. [See also P bk. ms. 1825/24 B. 1-A.; 1825/21 B. 2-A.].





Ill. is Breen 2-A, C-2. B. 2-A: WB's copy G.E.N.A.  
P.T.A. 9/1974:1908, see Bib. below.

**5 OVER 1**

Rev. A.

P108

R-6. Proofs: (1) Smithsonian, from the Mint collection. (2) The former Parouk specimen, ex Col. Green, Newcomer, Woodin, Steigerwalt, Parmelee 957. Mentioned in ANS 1914, Woodin loan. Uncirculated specimens of this date are far less often seen than circulated ones--something not true of other years save for 1823. I list the specimens known to me in approximate order of quality. (3) WGC 373, reappearing as "Memorable" 323, unc. (4) G.H.Hall 1895, probably the same as one of the two next following. (5) Lot 1692, Mike Kolman's mail bid sale of August 1960. (6) Miami-F.U.N. sale, lot 4184. These three were described as gem unc. (7) Bell II 602, AU. Possibly same as the next one. (8) 1954 ANA sale, lot 1688, ~~xx~~ also AU. (9) Wolfson 368, called AU. (10) Dunham 2098, also AU. (11) "Cicero" 115, EF sharp. (12) Lot 380, NN 49<sup>th</sup> sale, ex Eliasberg, ~~xx~~ apparently ex Atwater 1642; also EF. (13) Melish 1950, EF, sharp but hairlined. (14) Lot 431, 1947 ANA Convention sale, also EF or so. (15) Baldenhofer 1242, ex ~~xx~~ Dr. Clifford Smith; EF, rim dent near first star. (16) ~~xxxxxx~~ The ~~xx~~ former Jerome Kern specimen, ~~xx~~ EF but scratched up. Besides these, I have seen a couple of VF's making the rounds at convention bourses ~~xx~~ in the early 1950's. ~~xxxx~~ If in fact there are only two unc. specimens rather than four, and the Bell II piece came from the 1954 ANA sale, then there may be as few as ~~xx~~ 14-15 specimens known; on the other hand, the actual number is likely to be nearer to twenty.



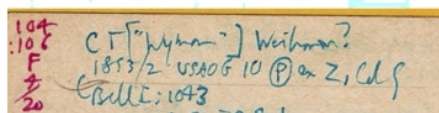
Ill. is overdate. Breen 1-A, C-1.

BMM 1951:2027 'U'.

See Bibliography below for additional information concerning obv. 2.

See Catalogues below: S Smith 5/55:1687 WB: "edge dent near 1st \*".

**5 OVER 4**



NB 104:106-7.

CGZ Unc. (SHC 10/22/1909), N:776 Unc. enl..

VIMP detailed description in Bib. below in WB's copy .P.T.A. Breen 2 6/75:374.

Breen 1-A. Mostly Unc. to EF. Garrett:467 \$19,500.00 Unc..

1-A: Cohen (1875):145, Earle:2394, J.H. Clapp, Eliasberg:381, \$22,000.00, S. Kesselman is an ex-proof. 2) N.M. Kaufmann, \$140,000.00 Kagin\*, Hagle:617 (4 Landmark coll.). \*Is this Kagin (3/30/1953):1645c, N:777 Unc.?



“H.R. Lee” S 10/47:1244 “1825 over 21. Strictly Very Fine with slight nick between 11th and 12th Star[...].” \$200.00.

Hermit 1799 & → Fraß 1800/1801

|                    |              |                |         |        |
|--------------------|--------------|----------------|---------|--------|
| Cohen              | 1801859 1 15 | 240 1854 II 17 | 609, 12 | 27, 29 |
| 138 1815 15        | 6 59         | 621-2          | 36 16   | 16     |
| 145 25/4           | 196 1829 26  | 536 1840 12    | 624     | 38     |
| 149 29 4           | 199 32 -     | 143 45 -       | 627     | 39 15  |
| 146-7-8, 26-7-8 PS | 227 59 -     | 548 49 -       | 635, 46 | 46, 53 |
| 180-84 30-34 PS    | 238 59 23    | 554 53         | 649     | 5      |
|                    |              | 556, 54, 6     |         |        |

Cohen:145 above.

**Proofs:** [Unique, Eliasberg coll.] Final S begins above C (?serif) Uncs. Proof in mint, S.I.: reverse large O high, leaf opposite N. Unc.: rev. small o even (low), leaf opposite N. Final S begins left \_; R nears = rev. '27. >>>> Add Artyfact here for leaf N positions. <<<<<<<<<<<

1-A: 1) Mint 8.751 grs, 185 degrees rotated. 2) Parmalee, Steigerwalt, Woodin, Newcomer, Green, Flanagan, "Bell," Eliasberg, Farouk, Wilkinson, Mocatta Metals, private collector.

“H.R. Lee” S 10/47:1243 “1825 Over other dates. A choice Brilliant Proof with high lustre. This is the famous Bell piece which originally came from the Flanagan Collection[...].” \$600.00. Plate.

Correction in Breen's Ency p. 523: The illustration at bottom right is 1825/4, not 1825/1.

Compare Harry Bass Collection below.

1826



Ill. is XF. Ex. J.W. Scott & Co. sale 1895, Clapp 1942.

1826

Mintage 18,069. This date includes a major mystery/. A unique variety appeared in Jenks sale of 1921 and has never been seen since; as the Jenks plate illustrated only the obverse, to the present day I have not been able to ascertain whether ~~it~~ the reverse is the same as that on the other 1826's, or as on the 1825's, or as in 1827. All of



P109

these alternatives are possible. Large letters reappear on the regular 1826 reverse, as in 1824; was the 1825 die then a leftover from 1820? 1826 is another of those years in which a fairly large number of gem uncirculated examples exist, each absolutely indistinguishable from the rest, and pedigree tracing has proved impossible.

B. 1-A. 13<sup>th</sup> star almost touches curl. Clapp 1.

Obv. 1. Similar to preceding dies since 1821. First star very close to bust, but not quite as close as formerly; 13<sup>th</sup> star almost touches curl from below.

Rev. A. Larger letters, similar to 1824. Positions of letters in STATES similar to those on the 1825 reverse. 5 D. moderately apart, the 5 equidistant between leaf and D, but higher than the D. Arrows to r. of center of R and below inner left curve of C. Denticles below 5 D and leftwards ~~xxx~~ to ~~xxxx~~ below nearest group of leaves are quite thin and spaced about their own width apart.

R-5. Two proofs known, one in the Smithsonian, from the Mint Cabinet, and the other the former Farouk coin, ex Col. Green, Newcomer, Woodin, Steigerwalt, Parmelee 965. There are many records for choice uncirculated specimens, exactly as in 1823, and most of these are indistinguishable. Circulated specimens are few: Baldenhofer's was fully sharp but buffed, G.H. Hall's EF, and Lawson's, lot 432 of the 1947 ANA sale, VF. I ~~xxxx~~ have not seen any other circulated examples. I would guess that about two dozen ~~gem~~ more or less uncirculated ones are around, possibly as many as thirty, the majority of them choice to gem level.

B. ~~XXA~~ 2-?. 13<sup>th</sup> star distant from curl. Clapp 2.

Obv. 2. Described as having 13<sup>th</sup> star distant from curl--probably the stars were more closely spaced, similarly to 1818 obverse 2.

P1100

Reverse is not known.

R-8. This was Jenks 5768, not seen and not traced before or since;  
described from the Jenks plate. ~~xxxxxx~~

B-1: See Bib. below WB's copy G.E.N.A. P.T.A. 9/1974:1909.

BMM 3/23/48:3681 "Beautiful sharp uncirculated..." \$375.00. BMM A.Carter 10/55:212 'U'.

"H.R. Lee" S 10/47:1245 "[...]Uncirculated[...]semi-proof surface. [...] from the Curtis Sale." \$250.00. Plate.

**Proofs:** B. [2 known] 1-A: Mint, S.I.: 8.753 grs 190 degrees rotated. 2) Randall, Parmelee, Steigerwalt, Woodin, Newcomer, Col. Green, Farouk, private collector. S [See also P bk. ms.].

Compare Harry Bass Collection below.

See Catalogues below: S Smith 5/55:1688.

Lot No. 405 B1A

VERY RARE 1826 HALF EAGLE

*scrapped near below  
wing - ditto 1/6  
round*

|     |      |  |
|-----|------|--|
| 405 | 1826 | Brilliant frosty Uncirculated. A superb specimen without a flaw or blemish on the obverse. Under strong magnification on reverse we note a faint thin <i>scratch</i> , invisible without use of strong glass. Possibly ten in existence. This great rarity worth a record bid. PLATE |
|-----|------|--|

WB's annot. K 1/75:405 above.

See Bib. for important description in WB's copy P.T.A. Breen 2 6/75:375 'BU'.



1827



Ill. is Breen A-1, C-1. Breen referred to the above piece as a 'proof' 'A - U'.

<<<<<<<verify>>>>>>>

For Proof, see NB 104:106 in 1815 above. [Also see P bk. ms.].

1827

Mintage 24,913. The Newcomer inventory claimed that around 7 to 10 specimens were then traceable. That is apparently close to the truth, though the ~~inx~~ present enumeration is probably not complete. Only a single variety.

B. ~~IXXX~~ 1-A.

Obv. 1. ~~N~~ In date ~~x~~ 1 a little high, 827 closely spaced and about in a straightline. Star positions about ~~as~~ in 1826 obv. ~~N~~ 1. Border at upper left usually narrow.

Rev. A. 5 D. farther to right than usual, the ~~N~~ distance from leaf to 5 being about equal to that from D to final A. D less tall and wider than formerly; period smaller; arrows to ~~xtail~~ of R near its end and inner left curve of C, nearly touching the C STATES more closely spaced than usual; I in motto below upright of E, final S above U. Border at top usually narrow.

R-7, low. Proofs: (1) Smithsonian, from the Mint Collection; (2) Eliasberg, ex John H. Clapp, H.P.Smith. (I have heard of a third proof but cannot now trace it.) (3) Melish 1952, apparently ex WGC Did this reappear as Miami-P.U.N. 4186? 2375 via "Memorable" 325, unc./(4) Dr. Clifford Smith 1689, ex Farouk, Was this Parmelee 972? ex Col. Green, Newcomer, Woodin, cleaned Unc./(5) 1958 N.Y.Metropolitan auction, lot 1234, ex Baldenhofer 1244. Unc., rev. rim nick. (This may be the piece claimed to have sold in 1926 for \$850.) (6) Amon Carter, ex his father's estate, ~~wn~~ earlier provenance not certain; possibly Atwater 1644, unc. (7) Wolfson 370, earlier provenance uncertain; possibly Bell I. Unc. (8) Davis-Graves 1451, unc. (9) Dunham 2100, AU plus. Possibly the same as next. (10) Bell II 604, "nearly Unc." The difficulties here ~~axxxxx~~ in establishing pedigree are nearly the same as those for 1823 and 1826, though fewer coins seem to be involved.

Possibly under 0.05% of mintage remain extant.



NB 97:28.

**Proof:** Mint, S.I. 8.774 grs. rotated 190 degrees.

Green, Wilson, Lilly, S.I.: 180 degrees rotated.

Woodin, N, G, Farouk, Cliff, Smith, '76 ANA, Auc 87:421 Unc..

"H.R. Lee" S 10/47:1246 "...Beautiful sharp Uncirculated Gem,..." \$1,900.00. Plate.

JCM#311, 10/18/33:221 "1827 About uncirculated. Extremely rare. *Illustrated.*" \$750.00.

JCM 418 10/9-10/40:29 27 \$5 U.

Another 'discovered' in Europe mid 1960's. Unc..

NB 65:90 1827 ACjr, Atwater, Neil (Whence?) now in Dale R. Phelan coll [address...(DNP)] He needs pedigree chains on 1829-I.

BMM A.Carter 10/55:213 "...Beautiful semi-proof."

Compare Harry Bass Collection below.

For #4 in above ms. see Catalogues below S Smith 5/55:1689.

Revised Statutes Act 6/22/1874: "The brass troy-pound weight was procured by the Minister of the US at London[...]shall be the standard troy pound of the Mint of the US[...]."



1828



Ill. is perfect date. Breen 2-B, C-2.

1828

P118

Mintage reported as 28,029. My tentative ~~maxim~~ guess is that the overdates were those struck between March 31 and June 30, numbering 12,299, and that the two perfect date varieties comprised the 15,730 delivered later in the year. Newcomer's inventory estimated that eight overdates and four perfect date coins were known. From all that I have been able to find out, there are seven perfect date coins known, and I have had much more difficulty in learning the number of overdates. Part of the trouble is that one of the Col. Green coins has been playing Musical Chairs for years. I would estimate that the number of different overdates is probably also 7 or 8.

B. 1-A. Overdate, 1828/27. ~~Star~~ XII A-1; C-1.

Obv. 1. Date in small numerals as on the half-cent. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Last 8, under a glass, shows horns from top of a 7. 13<sup>th</sup> star placed about as in 1826 obv. W1, unusually close to final digit--~~xxxx~~ slightly over its own diameter (the star's diameter) away from 8.

Rev. A. Smaller letters than in previous years. I in motto below space between T E. Final S about centered over US. A in STATES leans a little right, its r. base below that of the following T. First S almost in line with T. Arrows as in 1827 rev. A.

R-7. A single proof known: Eliasberg, ex Clapp. The other specimens known are all uncirculated and almost impossible to distinguish. I am reasonably certain that Wolfson 371 (ex Baldenhofer 1245, ex "Dupont"), Dr. Smith 1690 (ex Farouk, Col. Green, Newcomer), and Parmelee 978 are all different. Lot 1235 of the 1958 Metropolitan sale may have been a reappearance of the Dr. Smith coin. About the others it is apparently impossible to tell.

B. 2-B. Perfect date, first star very close to bust as formerly. A-2; C-2.



8 OVER 7



Ill. is 8/7. Breen 1-A, C-1.

P112

Obv. 2. ~~First~~ Normal date, no trace of 7 within 8. First star very close to bust, second opposite neck, third opposite lips, fourth opposite eye.

Rev. B. Extremely similar to foregoing. The most noticeable differences are that first S in STATES is low, more so than in rev. A; ATES are in line, the A not tilted. In other respects answers description of reverse A.

R-7. Cf. Wolfson 372, ex Baldenhofer 1246, ex "Dupontz"; and Davis-Graves 1452; Eliasberg, ex Clapp, H.P. Smith,.

B. 3-B. Normal date, first star far from bust. A-3; C-3.

Obv. 3. Very similar to preceding. First star distant from bust, second opposite chin, third opposite upper lip and nose, ~~fourth~~ fourth opposite eyebrow and forelock.

Rev. B.

R-7. Cf. Dunham 2101; Bell II 605.

There are three other 1828's with perfect date which I have not had opportunity to examine since I learned of the two obverse dies. They are the following:

1. Smithsonian, from Mint Collection. Proof.
2. Ten Eyck's, EF.
3. Amon Carter, ex Atwater 1645. Unc., but engraved in obv. field GW ~~script~~ [script], OCT 28 A.D. 1806.

Descriptions do not enable me to decide with certainty whether any of these three is a 2-B or a 3-B.



W.Breen RitA (1951-2): 181-39[called 30 in error] RDM 1829 1/14 dated 1/1/1829. Struck: M 3979; J 8329; S 13T; D 2730=28029.

Possibly under 0.05% of mintage remain extant.

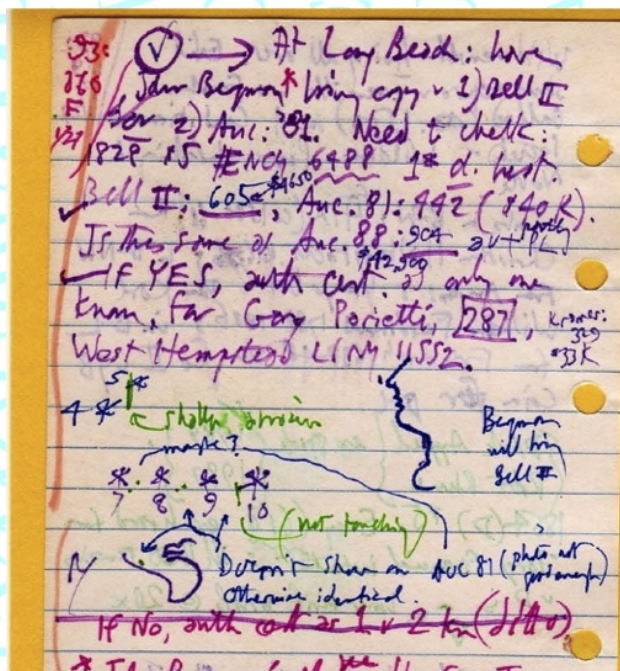
JCM #305:80 "Perfect date Half Eagle. Brilliant Uncirculated. As perfect as it left the dies. [...]such great collections as Stickney, Earle or Jenks did not have it. The last one offered at auction was in the Ten Eyke collection in 1922, and described as Extremely Fine brought \$680."

JCM#311, 10/18/33:222 "1828 Over 27. Extremely fine and one of the rarest U.S. coins. *Illustrated*." \$1,000.00.

JCM 418:30 28/7 'badly nicked' —:31 28 U.

See Catalogues below: S Smith 5/55:1690 for WB's comments.

**Proof:** Above [3-B] later described as B. 2-B: 1) Mint, S.I.. 2) Mrs. Norweb. Compare also Bell II:605. [See also **P** bk. ms.].



NB 93:160.

1828 JS: 1 x 2 var is also in  
Dunham. (18 d hr) see separate paper

NB 97:28.

Updated last paragraph ms. above: 1) Mint, S.I.: Star 1 distant from bust.

Update A-1: 1) Newcomer, Col. Green, Farouk, Clifford Smith, 1976 ANA:2944, \$25,000.00, R.E. Naftzger, Auction 82:1932, \$42,500.00, Unc. [See NB 53:66 below]. 2) Private collector, Eliasberg, "H.R. Lee." 3) "Bell," Flanagan, "Anderson Dupont," W.G. Baldenhofer, Samuel Wolfson, J.H. Murrell, Auction 80:927, \$55,000.00 AU +. 4) H.P. Smith, Clapp, Eliasberg:385, \$44,000.00. S. Kesselman. Ex-proof. 5) Green, Weihman, J. Lilly, S.I..

2-B. ?Garrett:471. 1) Mint, S.I., (star 1 distant from bust). 2) Farouk:243, N:778, Mrs. Norweb, Proof-like. 3) Garrett:470, \$70,000.00 AU. 4) H.P. Smith, Clapp, Eliasberg:386, \$26,400.00 AU. 5) "Dupont," Baldenhofer, Wolfson, Naftzger, Auction 82:1933, \$40K, Unc. 6) Davies-Niewoehner:561, \$92,500.00, Auc. 79:817, \$110K, Unc.. 7) Atwater, Carter:663, initials in field, \$8,250. [See BMM 10/55:214 below.] 8) Auc. 79:1234, EF, impaired, \$14K.

3-B. Bell II, Auction 81:442. Always weak in centers.

Probably 3-B: Auc 88 AU+PL "Ex-Bell". See Artyfact below.

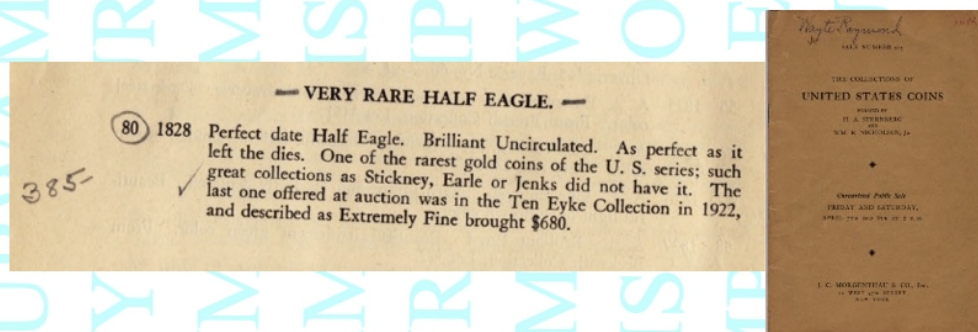
Which?: last (this +) Dunbois, only ones seen.

+ Mint, S.I. Proof.

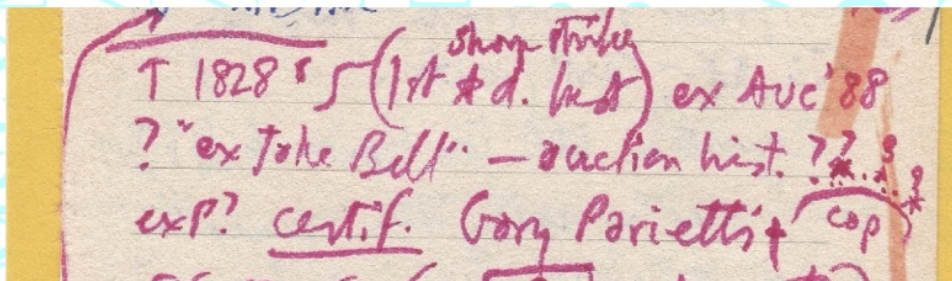
"H.R. Lee" S 10/47:1247 1828 over 27. Uncirculated, showing the clear overdate..." \$1,250.00. Plate. —:1248 "[...]Perfect date[...]Gem of Gems, [...]." \$1,750.00. Plate.

BMM A.Carter 10/55:214 "Semi-proof, but obverse engraved G.W. Octr. 28 A. D. 1806. [original onion skin ms. annot. WB: >Atwater 1645]





JCM #305:80.  
Compare Harry Bass Collection below.



NB 91:89 above. 1828 \$5[...].  
NB 53:66 Update piece #1) above: 28 (**prf**) \$5 U ex Auc '82 to Stanley Richmond to KG to[...].

## 1829 Type 1.

1 8 2 9

Mintage reported as 57,442. Should a letter from the Mint Director to the Secretary of Treasury <sup>(be found)</sup> announcing the change of type, it will be possible--from the date of that letter--to deduce the number minted of the two types of this year. Deliveries:

Possibly 0.02% of mintage remain extant. 7 known. Reverse of 1828.



Ill. is large planchet Breen 1-A, C-1.

### **LARGE DATE**

Large planchet as preceding; large date, stars, & letters; radial border dentils. See text; compare "Type II."



## SMALL DATE

P113

|          |        |
|----------|--------|
| March 31 | 7,781  |
| May 1    | 5,584  |
| June 30  | 12,010 |
| Sept. 8  | 7,960  |
| Sept. 22 | 8,190  |
| Dec. 31  | 15,926 |

In the meantime, all we have is circumstantial evidence. The half-dimmes of the year show round border beads within a raised rim, and thus correspond to the Type II half-eagles. They were first coined as of July 4, 1829. The letter from the Director to the Secretary of Treasury announcing these coins as superior to anything hitherto made failed to mention the half-eagles. We may guess that one good reason for this was that the half-dimmes had been struck earlier. But this leaves uncertain whether the Sept. 8 and Sept. 22 deliveries of half-eagles, totaling 16,150 ~~xxx~~ pieces, were of Type I or Type II. It is reasonably certain that the Dec. 31 delivery contained Type II's. The divisions might then be either 34,516 Type I, 15,926 Type II, or 125,366 Type I, 32,076 Type II. And anything more is conjecture.

The date 1829 is nearly as famous as 1822 for other reasons. ~~xxxxx~~ Each type of the year has been claimed as the rarer of the two--by dealers who had specimens to sell. In the Atwater sale, B. Max Mehl commented on the relative frequency of appearance of the two types, thereafter inspiring collectors to believe that Type I was rarer, contrary to former belief. At the auction of the Dr. Clifford Smith collection, a specimen accordingly realized \$11,000. In the Melish catalogue, the auctioneer attempted once again to reverse collector judgment by offering a Type II coin and pointing out that neither Atwater nor WGC contained a specimen. And so the dispute has gone on since then.

So far as I know, the conclusion arrived at below--Type I, 5 specimens, one in a museum; Type II, 6 specimens, 2 in museums--will not easily be refuted. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ This leaves matters just about where they were: four specimens of each type in private hands, and either one likely to bring prices well up in five figures at auction.



Later info.: 25,375 Type I, a few assay pieces are problematic.  
Byron Reed Proof-like? see NB 95:103 type II below.

P114

Type I. Large size, type of 1828, radial-line borders.  
B. 1-A. Large ~~size~~ planchet, date, ~~and stars~~ <sup>and letters</sup> type of 1828. Clapp 1.  
Obv. 1. Type of preceding years. Large planchet, border of ~~size~~ radial lines, large numerals (as in the half-cents of the year), large stars, first more distant from bust than in previous years.  
Rev. A. Same as 1828 Rev. B. Border of radial lines as formerly.  
R-7. Five specimens are known, one impounded in a museum. Four of the five, including the museum piece, have some claim to the ~~size~~ grade of uncirculated. (1) ~~Byron~~ Omaha City Library, ex Byron Reed estate, ex Parmelee ~~EXE~~ 988 at \$52. Pictured in the Parmelee catalogue. Brilliant unc. (2) Eliasberg, ex John H. Clapp, ex Harlan P. Smith. Pictured in Standard Catalogue and Guidebook. Unc./ (3) Dr. Clifford Smith 1691 (1955 NY Metropolitan Convention sale), ex Farouk, ex Col. Green, apparently from Newcomer. If the coin was ever owned by Woodin, it was only after 1914, as it is not mentioned in ANS 1914. Pictured in the Smith catalogue. Brilliant unc. This piece opened at \$4000 and was bid up to \$11,000 in a fantastic floor fight which had the whole numismatic world agog. (4) Atwater 1646, ~~where~~ <sup>earlier</sup> source unknown. Mehl neglected to name pedigree or even grade in a description occupying some twenty-six lines. Present location unknown. The photograph indicates that it is more or less uncirculated. (5) 1964 ANA Convention sale, ~~xxxxxxxx~~ lot 2863, ex ME. Shapiro, said to have been discovered in Europe. Fine, mutilated on reverse by having mounting removed; the coin had originally been part of a brooch or tie-clip or similar ornament, and parts of the wings and shield have been re-engraved to restore some part of the detail lost in the gold solder.

Type II. Small size, type of 1830, beaded borders.  
B. 2-B. Small planchet, date, ~~and stars~~ and letters; type of 1830. Clapp 2.  
Obv. 2. About 1/16" smaller than previous dies. Border of round <sup>quarter-eagles,</sup> beads within a plain raised rim, similar to that on the ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ dimes and half-dimes of the year, the half-cents and quarters of



4) Atwater:1646 **Proof** [Unique] ex. David Wilson:79, ex. Randall:934 (1885), obv. proof, rev. Unc., Large date, stars, large flan, radial denticles, struck in open collar. B. 1-A.

Personal communication to WB from ?, cat. search 16, Nov. 1966: David S. Wilson, Esq. Mar. 13 & 14, 1907 S.H. Chapman \$5 gold: 1829 lg. dt. Lg. Stars **Proof** obv., Unc. rev. (lot 79, plated) S.C.H. says, "only 3 of the lg. dts known plus this one."

**Proof**; see also P bk. ms., first type and second type details described.

P115

1831, the cents of 1834, dollars ~~of~~ and reeded-edged halves of 1836. Small date, ~~is~~ apparently from the punches used for the dimes of the year; small stars. New head punch, ~~designed~~ by William Kneass (as is ~~the entire composition~~), and differing from the 1818-28 head punch in numerous small details, but no major ones. The differences are largely in the curls--note particularly those in front of ear.

Rev. B. Corresponding in style to the obverse, this die is smaller than all previous reverses, also with border of round beads ~~within~~ within plain raised rim. Much smaller letters than formerly; the letters are not even as tall as the motto ribbon. S smaller than D, this D much larger than D in UNITED. E in UNITED seems a little high. T A farther apart than other letters in STATES. R I and C A spaced far apart. I in motto below left foot of T; S above S. Arrows to left upright of I and left tip of A.

R-7. Three proofs and three business strikes are known of this rarity. Proofs: (1) Smithsonian Institution, on loan from the Mint Cabinet. (2) Norweb collection, ex Farouk, Col. Green, Newcomer, Ten Eyck, Parmelee 989 at \$65. (3) Omaha City Library, ex Byron Reed estate; ~~earlier~~ earlier source ~~unknown~~ unknown. Nonproofs: (4) 1963 Miami F.U.N. sale, lot 4187, at \$21,500, ex unknown intermediate owners, ex Dunham 2102, H.P. Smith 219 (1906), Foster Ely collection (November 1888). Unc., first strike, faint traces of cabinet friction; pictured in the Standard Catalogue. (5) Eliasberg, ex Clapp, also close to mint state. (6) Melish 1953, at \$8400; earlier provenance unknown. EF to AU, traces of prooflike surface, but with some bag marks. (The enlarged ~~photo~~ cut in the Melish catalogue does not do justice to the coin.) Rumors have recurred of other specimens, but to date none have been verified.



Type I, large planchet.

Rev. A.

1) Add partly proof-like.

2) Joseph J. Mickley in a private sale, William S. Appleton, W.E. Woodward (1/23/1883), T.H. Garrett, J.W. Garrett, JHU, Garrett:471, \$165,000.00, Proof-like Unc. S 10/5/1988:82 [Les Fox + partners] \$165K ( ) NGC slab 89 ANA: \_\_, \_\_ 5,500 Martin Hall (?Paul?).

3) Was #2 above. Add ?to HB? "TX coll."?

4) Was #3 above. Add Mougey:1075, WHW, WN, Col. EHRG, KF,... 1976 ANA:2945 \$65K 'U', HB Unc.. #4 "[...]pictured in the Standard Catalogue[...]" says "By Wm. Kneass" below photo, 18th Ed., page 137, second left from top. See Catalogues below: S Smith 5/55:1691 **VIMP**.

5) Was #4 above. Add Randall:934, [...]proof-like.

6) David S. Wilson:79, Brand I:280, \$88,000.00 (via Tony Terranova) Auction 85:941, to HB. Proof obv. Unc. rev..

7) Was #5 above. Unidentified mature female, Messer & Coen, Wm. Fox Steinberg, Edwin Shapiro, '64 ANA, Berube's "Greater Houston":552 (Jan. 1966), Paramount's Grand Central sale Nov. 1966, Kagin, 1974 MANA:1617 \$19K, 1986 FUN:2029, Fairehester, private collection.

8) Lilly, S.I., 8.739 grs., 175 degrees rotated, Unc., nicks to right of 9 (middle, or near center stroke), above D (about 1:30 o'clock).

NB 65:90 T 1829 \$5 I reported coin now in Dale R. Phelan coll. [address (DNP)] He needs pedigree chain on 1829-I.

Notes on 1829 Large Date: (From a 3rd party all below from catalogue listings; risky info!). No mention of Planchet Type. Compare below.

Where does 'Proof' 1885 Woodward 77th sale:936 belong? Is it #2?

Where: 1880 Woodward 27th:1012 'PL'?

Where 'U' 1884 Woodward 69th:1157?

Where: 1946 Atwater Sale:1646 'U' \$3,100.00.

Where 'EF' 1954 Egypt Pallace [sic] Sale:244?

Where 'U' 1955 Smith Sale:1691 \$11K.

Where 'F' 1964 ANA:2863 \$5,500.00? Is this #7; former #5? Grade is far apart! Same coin is listed in this persons records as 2 different coins: 1966 Grand Central Sale:718 1966 \$3,800.00. Same: 'F' 1974 MANA:1617 \$19K.

Where 'F' New England Coin CO. 1/281966:552.

Where 'U' 1982 U.S.G.C. Sale:387 \$82,500.00.

2) In WB's notes (from 3rd party): 1890 Parmelee Sale as Lot # 988.



- 4) 'U' 1906 H.P. Smith:218 \$240.00. (Same 3rd party list as #218 \$240.) WB ms. above:219. "Mougey:1075" add "1910" See notation #4 SC above. '6) U' 1907 at \$325.00.

### **Type II, small planchet.**

Rev. B. Update from above ms.:

- 1) As above ms. add 8.755 grs. 180 degree rotation.
- 2) Is #3 above ms. add: McCoy:1958, J.O. Emery, Woodward 27:1013 (Emery, Taylor & Loomis colls., 3/9/1880), Reed estate, OCL. **Proof.**
- 3) Is #2 above ms. add: Col. Mendes I. Cohen:149 [see below] (1875), L.G. Parmelee:797, L.Low, J.Ten Eyck:194, Newcomer, Col. E.H.R.G., Farouk, Spink's, Norweb. **Proof.**
- 4) Harlod P. Newlin, 10/31/1884, T.H. Garrett [verify H.], J.W.Garrett, JHU, Garrett:472, \$65K, Stanley Kesselman. AU+.
- 5) Is #4 above ms. add: Rev. Foster Ely, Cleaney:574, Smith, Dunham, Flanagan:1105. F.U.N., Superior Gal. 9/24/1970:574, \$23,500.00, RARCOA 2/1972:871, \$20K, Private coll.. Borderline Unc..
- 6) Is # 5 above ms. add: Ben E. Green 5/25/1906:443, Clapp, Eliasberg, Kevin Lipton, EF, cleaned.
- 7) Is #6 above ms. add: Mathew Adams Stickney, Earle:2397 (?), Bell I:351, Adolphe Menkou, "Melish":1953, various Kagin sales, 1974 MANA:1618, \$100K.
- 8) Yorktown Indiana estate, Leon Hendrickson, 1967 Grand Central:806, Pradeau-Bothamley:574, \$23,500.00, Davies-Niewoehner:562, J.C. Burnheimer:1079, \$50K, AU. rim nick between ER.
- 9) Col. Green, Weihman, Lilly, S.I. 8.702 grs. 178 degree rotation.

As I stated above: this CC is like herding a clowder of cats.

Compare 3rd party info. to WB's Large Planchet and Small Planchet. Information from 3rd party is added herein for research assistance to future scholars.

See Bib. below Auc. '85 LD: NB 56: 164-5.



“crack [base] 5D top UNITE”

Walter Breen’s annotated copy of the V. Brand sale, November 1983, B&R.

Entered here for historical purposes only.

NB 60:79. MARCA:1829 \$5 I, ‘F’.

November 1999 \$: → Fractions 1/100 = 1¢

|       |                     |             |                |         |          |
|-------|---------------------|-------------|----------------|---------|----------|
| Cohen | 138 1815-15         | 180 1839-15 | 240 1854 II-17 | 609, 12 | 27, 29   |
|       | 145 25/4            | 196 1829 21 | 536 1840-AR    | 621-2   | 36 L6 16 |
|       | 149 29/4            | 199 32 =    | 543 45 =       | 624     | 38       |
|       | (146-7-8, 26-7-8 PS | 227 59 =    | 548 49 =       | 627     | 39 L5    |
|       | 150-54 30-34 PS     | 233 59 83   | 554 53         | 635, 46 | 46, 53   |
|       |                     |             | 556, 54, 6     | 649     | 5        |

Cohen:149 above.

Compare Harry Bass Collection below.



Snowden doubts that the \$2.50 were ever issued. No Motto \$5—685028, \$2½—112234.

In 1835-6 approximately \$2 million of gold of former ratio was recoined; far smaller amounts thereafter. The totals are not determinable since accounting of source of bullion deposits is far from complete. The whole amount of gold of former ratio brought into the Mint cannot be far below \$3 million and may exceed it.

1838. Coinage of Eagles resumed December; four "specimen coins" sent on or before Dec. 10. One of 1838 (and one of 1839) proof is in the Mint Collection.

1841 Quarter Eagles. None reserved for assay. Evidently they were only a "specimen" coinage like the half-cents.

1849. Gold Dollars. Coinage started May 8. There exist a few pieces with small head somewhat differently executed and placed than on the regular; one is in the Mint Cabinet and is the first gold dollar proof I have seen and the second I ever heard of, moreover besides the 1849 \$20 it is the only proof coin of that date in the collection. Probably a pattern as this type head was not perpetuated. It is impossible to say when the open wreath was replaced by the closed wreath; no data are known to me on this subject other than letters (far later) of the D/M saying that the open wreath were the "first issue".

1850. Regular \$20 coinage for circulation started March 12. A proof was in the J. B. Longacre collection.

1854. Probably the best division would place the gold dollars as follows:

Type I 840040

Type II 799405

The difficulty here is in assigning a delivery of August 19 (56097). The

first "specimens" sent the Secretary of the Treasury for approval were transmitted August 17; when his letter of approval arrived is unknown—it has not been found in the Archives. Coinage had been intermitted since June 17 (783943 till then); evidently the change of type was then contemplated. If the Sec'y telegraphed his reply, it is possible that the Aug. 19 delivery was of Type II; but no real evidence. In the absence of better data, the figures I gave above (allowing the Aug. 19 delivery to be included as Type I) will stand. It is almost certain that the Sec'y approval came on or before Aug. 24 and that is the assumption I am proceeding on.

\$3.00 gold: Regular coinage started May 1, first delivery 23140 on May 8. On April 28, 15 "specimens" were enclosed in a letter of the Director to the Sec'y of the Treasury.

1858. The 2521 eagles did not include proofs, as far as can be learned.

It may be mentioned that around 1860 the Director caused about \$2 million in gold dollars of the small size to be melted and recoined. These pieces had lain for years in the N. Y. Assay office, and in the Director's Report (for 1860 or 61, I believe) there is mentioned his belief that the rest ought to be gradually recalled, the "evil" of having two coins of different sizes but same value being only too apparent. Whether any more were actually recoined I have been unable to find out, but the chances are that any subsequent recoinage was small on account of the suspension of specie payments and the consequent hoarding of what precious metals were available during the Civil War.

Later notes on gold coin will be found among proof coin notes.



## **1829-34 ARE SMALLER IN DIAMETER THAN THE EARLIER COINS, SMALLER LETTERS, STARS AND DATES.**

Improvements in mint technology are reducing variants in dies. William Kneass, Robert Scot's successor, is making (1828-34) unobtrusive modifications. That most relevant to the present group of half eagles is the "close collar", a then recent invention to equalize coin diameters & simultaneously improve striking quality. Earlier coins had been struck in an open collar, which is a flat metal plate with a hole somewhat larger than the diameter of a finished coin, serving to position a planchet atop the lower die (anvil die) for striking, but not to restrain its expansion. Edge lettering, reeding or other ornamentation were imparted in a third separate operation by the Castaing machine (parallel bars) before the blanks went to press; the open collar did not effect them. Because centering was not always exact, dies were normally of much greater diameter than the finished coins, & included long radial-line dentilated borders so that any unstamped areas might not tempt the ungodly—in age old practice—to clip or shave off precious metal before spending.

With the new close collar, all this was changed, including border design & die diameters, & the principal remains in use to the present day. A close collar is a heavy steel block with a hole the diameter of the finished coin, into which the face & part of the neck of the lower die must fit; the hole may be plain or vertically grooved to impart a reeded edge, but cannot have other ornamentation as this would either prevent ejection of the finished coin or be sheared off in the process. During the striking, a flywheel at the press retracts both dies, then the hopper releases a planchet, which feeder fingers (the "layer-on") move to drop into the coining chamber (the cylindrical space between lower die face & close collar). As the flywheel continues to move, the lower die stays where it is but the upper die (hammer die) descends with a force of 40 to 75 or more tons (depending on diameter), causing metal of the planchet to flow into all crevices & corners, creating the raised protective rim & bringing up peripheral details. The flywheel's further rotation causes the upper die to withdraw, the lower die to rise through the close collar, ejecting the hot, newly struck coin, after which feeder fingers brush it into the receiving bin, & the process repeats, again & again. Kneass accordingly produced new dies with plain rims surrounding beaded borders; this feature, essential to the new technology, was specially



mentioned in Mint correspondence of the period, & is remains in use, though the beaded borders were abandoned in 1930 except for the New Rochelle commemorative half dollar. See 1829 Quarter-Eagle for an additional comment by the Mint Director. The illusion of higher relief in Kneass' die (& many later ones) is partly from the way relief details were distributed, partly from basining (imparting variable radius of curvature to fields).

Varieties of half eagles, 1829-34, are fewer & more minor than earlier. Mintages were larger, because considerable quantities of gold began reaching the Mint from Georgia & North Carolina. Bechtler's extensive coinages are one reason why federal mintages in the early 1830's were not larger still; many preferred to have their nuggets & granules locally coined rather than risk shipment to Phila. with hazards of bandits & hostile Indians.

However, most of the coins continued to be melted as worth over face value for reasons detailed in previous sections of Quarter, Half & Eagle text; & this melting was why the 1834 Mint Act lowered official weight (which caused even more melting of old-tenor gold). The change of design to the "Classic Head" see 1834-8, was to enable everyone instantly to tell new from older standard coins.

Because of extensive meltings, all dates of the Reich-Kneass design are rare, some ex-rare. The very first of these, 1829 :Type II," is one of the most famous of all half-eagle rarities. Date, stars, letters, & diameters are all smaller than "Type I." The proofs are thought to have been made in celebration of the new design, as with the half dimes & dimes of the year. Of possibly [32,076] minted plus an unknown number of proofs, only those listed above in "Type II" are traceable today.

## 1829 small planchet.

See above.

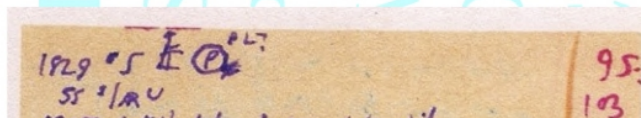
Possibly [32,076?- + ?P]



Ill. is Breen 2-B, C-2. Ex. Clapp collection. WB: '...close to mint state...'.  
For **Proof** see NB 104:106 in 1815 above.



Ill. is a **proof**. Breen 2-B.



NB 95:103-4. Byron Reed coll. (1829-91)\$5. I P-L?, II Proof.  
Compare Harry Bass Collection below.



1830 P116

Mintage 126,351. Apparently from now on the dies were of tougher alloy, as mintages are much larger but the number of dies in use does not seem to have increased proportionately. Dies are also much more difficult to tell apart, particularly obverses. The obverse-reverse designation will be dropped from now on, and a notation uniform with that adopted for the smaller gold denominations adopted. ~~The fix~~ If a given date comes in two types, they will be labeled I and II; if there are distinguishable die varieties of each type, they will be labeled I-1, I-2, I-3, ... II-1, II-2, etc. I begin this practice with 1830 rather than with 1834 because there is considerable question in my mind as to the actual die variety used on some specimens, even with available photographs, which are no longer ~~sufficient~~ sufficient to distinguish them.

Types are as in 1829 II. The known varieties differ principally in having large or small 5 D. The small 5 D. has a very narrow D, not much wider than the 5; the large 5 D. has a very broad D, more than twice the width of the 5. Proofs are reported from both reverses. I am in doubt whether the Byron Reed proof, now in Omaha City Library, has large or small 5 D., though I vaguely recall it as being of the former type. Same comment for the Smithsonian's nearly unc. piece, brought in for exchange at \$5.33 (bullion value) during 1860. There appear to be three exceedingly similar obverse dies, differing principally in position of stars to denticles, and not much even there. The die shared by Bell II 607, Wolfson 374, Davis-Graves 1453 and Miami-F.U.N. 4188 appears to have first two stars pointing to ~~denticles~~ spaced between denticles; another die, found on Bell II 606 and WGC 376, appears to have both stars pointing to denticles; to have ~~first star pointing to denticles; second star pointing to space~~; and the third, found on the Dunham-"Lee" coin, has first star pointing to denticle, second to space, and 7<sup>th</sup> practically touching border. There are minor

Page 130 of 261



2 in S.I.: One Mint, other Green, W, Lilly.



Ill. is a **proof**, D narrow. Small D. Breen 2, C-4.

**Proofs:** Both types, 2 or 3 known. [See also P bk. ms. B. 1; B. 2].

**SMALL 5D**

P117

and numerals  
differences in spacing of stars/on all these, but they are very hard  
to see without contact prints or having the actual coins at hand./As  
all of the varieties are R-6's or R-7's, it is difficult to assign a  
more exact rating to any of them, and ~~there~~ there is much doubt still  
involved as to the actual identity of some coins, most probably the best  
course will be to leave the situation as it is for the moment.

1. ~~1831~~ Large 5 D. <sup>Clapp 1.</sup> Reverse of 1829 II./ Proofs are reported.  
This is by far the rarer of the two types, Specimens appear to exist with  
the first two obverse dies alluded to above, the second being rarer.  
As a type, high R-6; probably less than twenty survive. Most are VF-EF.

2. ~~1831~~ Small 5 D. Narrow D. ~~There~~ Clapp 2. Proofs are re-  
ported. The die is in other respects quite similar to that of Type I;  
~~There~~ UNITED more closely spaced and farther from wing, and lower  
arrow to space between CA, otherwise answering its description. Speci-  
mens apparently exist with all three ~~xxx~~ obverses described above.  
Several uncirculated specimens survive, but the majority of specimens are  
EF or thereabouts. This is the type most commonly seen. R-5.

Rev. of 1831 Small 5 D. Obv. of 1., before or after repolishing; on later states,  
0 no longer shows repundhing. Dohrman, Garrett:473, Unc., #23K. HC  
11/22/1909, Holden, N:780, Unc.. **Proofs:** 1) OCL. 2) Earle (Chapman  
6/1912), Clapp, Eliasberg:390, \$19,800.00, Buddy Ebsen.



"H.R. Lee" S 10/47:1249 "... Small 5 D...A shade from Uncirculated...A faint scratch between 3rd and 4th stars...This is the Dunham..." \$150.00. Plate.

BMM A.Carter 10/55:215 'U'.

See Catalogues below: S Smith 5/55:1692.

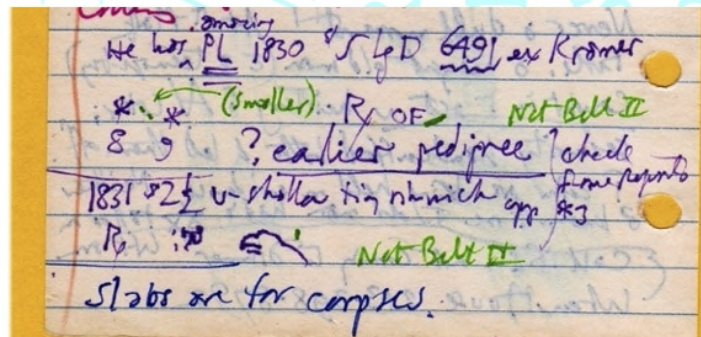
## LARGE 5D

In date 0 usually shows traces of repunching. Mumford, Clapp, Eliasberg:389, Unc., \$18,700. Green, Weihman, Lilly, S.I.. One **proof** reported long ago untraced, Ill..

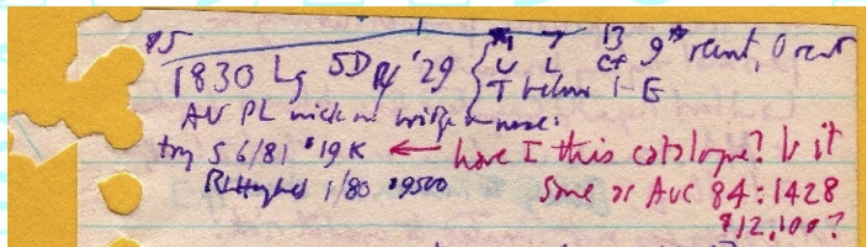
Color ill's. above are large 5D. Breen 1, C-1.



Ill. is Breen 1, Unc..



NB 93:160. 1830 PL, Disregard 1831 \$2 1/2, "Slabs are for corpses."



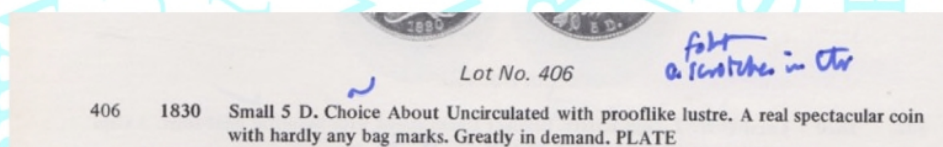
NB 66:117.

JCM#311, 10/18/33:223 "1830 Uncirculated proof surface. Very rare. *Illustrated.*" \$250.00. [Without question illustration is large 5D. Ill. also shows horizontal marks in field before nose.]

DNV KNEASS'S MODIFIED HEAD LEFT. 1830. Large 5 D. Rev. of 1829. Breen 1-A. About Unc., prooflike. Identifiable by a tiny nick on bridge of nose opposite lower part of ee[sic]. At least the equal of one in Stack's June 1981 auction at \$19,000. Very rare, the rarer of the two types of this date. B0035.

KS 4/3-4/59: "[...]Large 5D. Choice about Uncirculated. [...]." Plate.

Compare Harry Bass Collection below.



WB's annot. K 1/75:406 above.



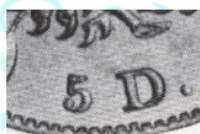
1831



Ill. is Breen 2

Enlarged ill. 5 D.

Obv. sometimes cracked from rim to star 5 to forelock (see ill. later state rev. crack below). Randall, Clapp, Eliasberg:392, AU, \$16,500.00. N.M. Kaufman, ?Unc..



1 8 3 1

Mintage 140,594. The large mintages of this period are mainly from Carolina and Georgia gold. With the wholesale melting of "old tenor" (i.e. prior to 1834 II) gold, probably only these large mintages could have insured the survival of as many as two or three dozen specimens of any of these dates. The half-eagles of 1831 are similar to those of 1830<sup>1</sup> in all respects save that the stars are larger. Dates are from the so-called large date punches used on the quarter dollars; the 1's are tall. Once again we find small and large D's in 5 D, but this time the small D type is rarer.

1. Small D, reverse of 1830 #2. Adams 1, Clapp 2, Newcomer 122. Proofs are reported, and this may refer to Parmelee 1003. High R-6, possibly R-7; cf. Baldenhofer 1249; Clapp-Eliasberg; Dunham-"KLee" coin

"H.R. Lee" S 10/47:1250 "Strictly Fine, can be called Very Fine. This is the Dunham specimen..." \$135.00.

reappearing as lot 383, NN 49<sup>th</sup> sale. P118

2. Large D, similar to 1829 II, but apparently not the identical reverse die, though very similar. A-2; C-1; N-123. Arrows to center of base of I and left tip of A. Low R-6. Cf. WGC 377, reappearing as "Memorable" 327; the Lawson coin in the ANA 1947 sale, lot 434; G.H.Hall 1898; Clapp-Eliasberg; Wolfson 375; 1956 Metropolitan, lot NW1652, etc.

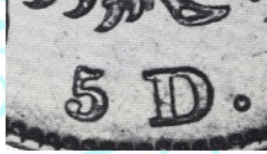


Ill. is small D, Breen 1, C-2. 2 in S.I.  
Enlarged 5 D.

Newlin, Garrett:474, \$16K, AU.; Eliasberg:391, \$45K, Unc.. **Proofs:** 1) Parmelee:1003, H.P. Smith, private collection. B. 1-A.

**Proofs:** B. 2 Large D in 5D. 1) Mint, S.I., dubious. 2) Reported by Wayte Raymond, early 1950's, not now traced. [See also P bk. ms. B. 1; B. 2.].



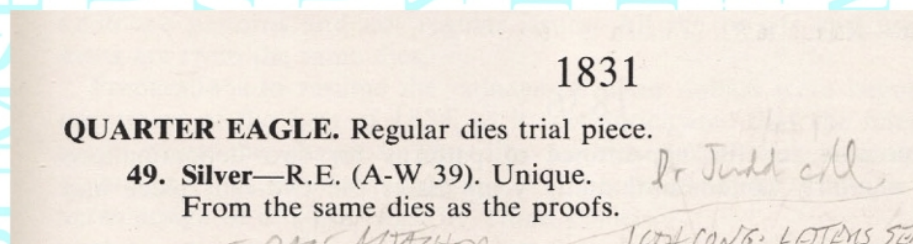


Ill. is Large D, Breen 2.

Cracked from rim to star 5 to forelock, later faint through (O)F, wing, AMERICA.

crack rim

B. 1 Described in detail, see Bib., WB's copy P.T.A. Breen 2 6/75:376 'EF/AU'.



Walter Breen's annotated Judd 3rd. "Dr. Judd coll."

BMM A.Carter 10/55:216 'U, semi-proof...' No variety noted.

Compare Harry Bass Collection below.

1832

Ill. is  
base 2, 12  
Breen 1, C-2.



curved  
stars.



# **CURVED BASE 2, 12 STARS** a.k.a. "Blundered die."

See 1798 half eagle with 14 stars.

1 8 3 2

Mintage 157,487.  
This is one of the most famous ~~ndatesx~~ of all, largely ~~mak~~ because of the twelve-star variety (an engraver's blunder) and because both types of the year are much rarer than those of nearby years. Possibly some coins dated 1831 were delivered in 1832. Deliveries:

|          |        |
|----------|--------|
| Feb. 4   | 1,800  |
| March 31 | 17,200 |
| June 30  | 37,479 |
| Sept. 29 | 37,678 |
| Nov. 19  | 33,468 |
| Dec. 24  | 29,862 |

This gives no clue as to the twelve-star variety. As obverse and reverse both differ from ~~xxxxx~~ other dies of 1832 and the reverse is not identified as a die of either 1831 or 1833, nor is the evidence from date punches unequivocal, there is no way of doing more than guessing whether it came early or late in the year. I list it first, but it might just as easily have been second.

I. Twelve stars, curved base to 2. C-2. Reverse similar to preceding dies of 1830 and 1831; ~~arrws~~ as in 1831 #2; period distant from D, on the Newcomer coin; period ~~at~~ very close to D, on the Atwater coin. The two reverse dies do not appear to differ appreciably in other respects. Five known, and I do not at present know which reverse is borne by the ~~xxxx~~ three other specimens. (1) Smithsonian Institution, from the Mint collection, from an auction of Feb. 24, 1883 at \$20. (2) Omaha City Library, ex Byron Reed estate, ex Parmelee 1013 at \$35, uncirculated. (3) Eliasberg, ex Atwater 1650 at \$2600; EF, flat stars. Close period. (4) ~~xxxxxx~~ The former Farouk coin, ex Col. Green,



4) 'VF' Grandberg:1023 \$525.00 (1913). Is this also 1954 Egypt Palace Sale:247 'EF'? 5) 'VF' 1907 Stickney:674 \$50.00.[See Bibliography below], Jenks:5772 (1921) \$130.00. Which became 'EF' 1982 U.S.G.C:393 \$44K.?

## SQUARE BASE 2, 13 STARS

p119

Newcomer, Wymodin, Granberg~~X~~. Pictured in ANS 1914, Plate XV, and in Standard Catalogue. Said to have been sold to Granberg by B.Max Mehl in July 1913. Uncirculated. Distant period. (5) Jenks 5772, plugged. When I handled the Smithsonian coin in 1951, and the Reed coin in 1953, I was not aware of the two reverses. I have never seen the Jenks piece and know it only from the photograph of obverse. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Borderline R-8, only three being theoretically collectible.

II. Thirteen stars, ~~g~~flat based 2. (Rumored also to exist with curve based 2.) Reverse differs from both preceding. Clapp 1. Distant period, but final S above US rather than above S in motto, unlike any preceding. This is ~~xxxx~~ R-7, but estimates of the surviving population have ranged from six to ten specimens. Pedigree data are somewhat confused and it is possible that the present enumeration duplicates one or two specimens. (1) Eliasberg, ex ~~XXXX~~ Clapp, ex H.P.Smith. (2) Amon Carter, unc., possibly ex "Memorable" 328. (3) Dr. Clifford Smith 1694, unc., possibly a Col. Green coin. (4) Bell II 608, called unc., not impossibly same as preceding. (5) Wolfson 376. (6) Atwater 1649, AU, possibly reappearing in the Jerome Kern sale and then as Baldenhofer 1250?. (7) G.H.Hall 1899, AU. (8) NN 49<sup>th</sup> sale, lot 384, ex Dunham 2105, "Lee", almost unc. (9) The plugged piece in the Stickney collection.

II. Star 4 is repunched, 14-18 extant.  
2 in S.I.: 1) Mint. 2) Green, W, Lilly.  
N:782 burnished.

Which of above, if any, are: Garrett:475, \$15K, AU; Miles, Delp, Naftzger, Auction 82:1935 \$18K, Unc.; Chatlin, Brand I:281'proof', \$39,600.00, private collection.

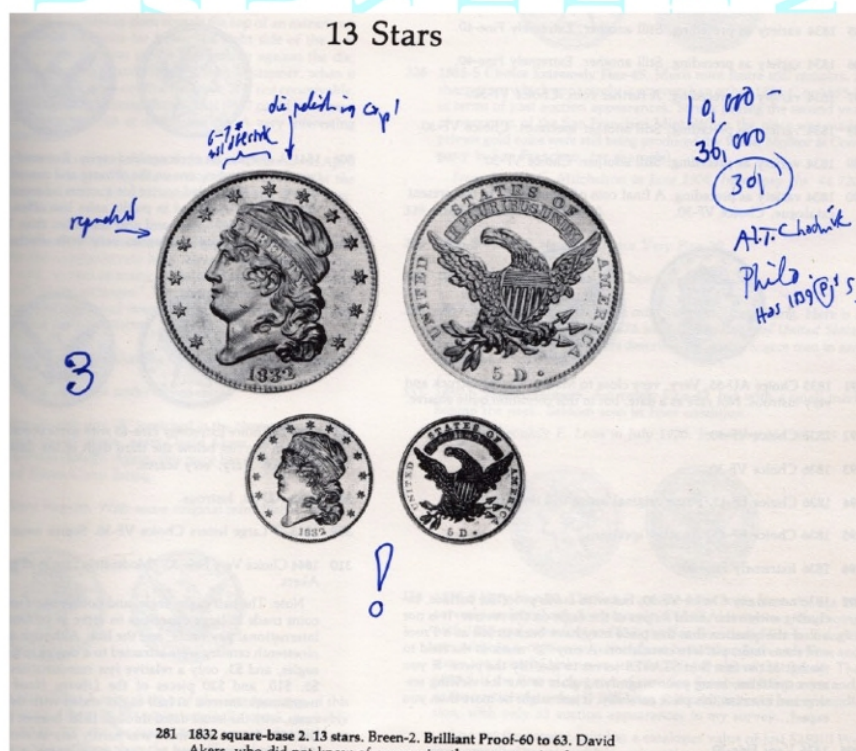
"H.R. Lee" S 10/47:1251 "[...]13 star[...]square base 2[...]Brilliant Uncirculated with a hairline nick on face and edge[...]." \$575.00. Plate.



Ill. is 13 star, square base 2. Breen 2, C-1.

**Proof:** Reported unique, unlocated as of 1975. Dies unknown.

“3 repunched (4th star) 6-7\* all double struck die polish in cap!”



Walter Breen's annotated catalog V. Brand Sale, November 1983, B&R.  
Reproduced here for historical purposes only.



Updated above ms. 1832 blundered die 12 stars, add:

- 1) As above.
- 2) As above.
- 3) Is #4 above.
- 4) Is # 5 above ms. add: Stickney:674, Jenks:5772 (“[...]I have never seen the Jenks coin & know it only[...] is this same piece), Col Green, C.T. Weihman, J.Lilly, S.I. Holed between star 7 & 8, later plugged. 8.745 grs. 185 degrees rotated.
- 5) Mehl 12/12/1922, Atwater:1650, Eliasberg:393, \$44K, EF, flat stars.
- 6) C. Varner, discovered at 1977 ANA, EF, \$26K.

Misc. WB autograph ms.: 1832 13\*: does it always have 4\* dbl punched? [Is this Auc '83:840? this is very difficult to read]

BMM A.Carter 10/55:217 “Thirteen stars. Uncirculated. Extremely rare.”

Compare Harry Bass Collection below.

S Smith 5/55:1694.

WB: 12 stars “Missmade.”

1833



III. is large date. Breen II, C-1.

Mintage of this design [74,709-], ended May 30, 1834. Of these only [50,141] left the Mint; the remainder were melted as soon as it became apparent that the new Mint Bill would become law, which it did June 28, effective Aug. 1. The Aug. 1 date began the Great Meltings of old-tenor gold.

1 8 3 3

Mintage 193,630. For some inexplicable reason, the two types of this year--small and large date--have never been publicized, to my knowledge, though they are naked-eye types.

I-1. Small date, period close to D, STATES far above ~~xxxx~~ scroll.  
A-1; C-2. Obv. Small, closely spaced date, smaller than any other in this period; short 1, modern 8x with its thickest part in the middle (joining the two loops), first and 13<sup>th</sup> stars close to bust and curl. Rev. Oval period close to D, final S above U in UNUM, entire word STATES distant above scroll, especially compared with the other reverse of this year; arrow to space between IC and to left tip of r. foot of A. ~~high~~



I-1: S 3/10/1981, \$29K, Hancock & Harwell, 1982 ANA:2670, #13K, Unc..  
 2) Auction 82:1936, \$18K, Unc.; others.  
 I-3: Period close to D. HK 3/30/1953:645D (0?), N:783. [AU?]. No proof.  
 Which is Nagle:620?. 3) Green, W, Lilly, S.I., 8.760 Grs, rotated 180 degrees.



Ill. above is I-2.

P120

~~XXXXX~~ R-7. Wilson 83; Judd 85, unc.; second variety in ANS 1914.  
 The reason for undue rarity of this variety is known.

I-2. Small date, obv. as last; period far from D; STATES close to scroll. Apparently unpublished. Reverse is same as that on Type II; S above U and space to right, arrows into center of base of I (not close) and left tip of A (very close). Cf. Davis-Graves 1454, Baldeknhofer 1251, Schulman-Kreisberg (Feb. 1960) 2709. Apparently R-7, less rare than preceding.

II. Large date, rev. as last. A-2; C-1. Large numerals, widely spaced, tall 1, oldstyle 8 with its thickest parts at left and right sides of both loops, all figures lean right. First and 13th stars are distant from bust and incurl. Rev. Same as last, now sometimes with lower of the top leaf-pair hollow, rusty at arrows and R, and still later with a rim break over TED, not touching those letters. Early Dr. Smith 1695, states: /Wolfson 377, Bell II 609; proofs are in the Smithsonian and elsewhere, one believed to have been Farouk's coming ultimately from Parmelee 1021. Cf. also Gaylord 1933, unc.; G.H.Hall 1900; 1957 ANA sale, lot 1993; etc., etc. Last states also show obv. cracked from rim to bust to first star to rim, grazing left base of 1 in date. Compare WGC 378 (later "Memorable" 329). Apparently R-5.



“H.R. Lee” S 10/47:1252 Ex Dunham \$150.00. Plate.

BMM 3/23/48:3682: 1833 “Very close date. Reverse, 5 D rather widely spaced. Brilliant uncirculated with semi-proof surface...” \$265.00. —:3683 1833 Wide date. 5 D on reverse closer than on preceding lot...” \$325.00.

II: Many states of cracks; rust marks; & eventually a rim break above TED. Emery, Garrett:476, \$15K, AU; Frossard, Clapp, Eliasberg:395, #12,100 AU. **Proofs:** Mint, S.I. 8.717 grs. 180 degree rotation. Reverse of 1832. 2) Randall:938, Parmelee:1021, Farouk, N.Y. State specialist. 3) Nicholas Petry:314, (Chapmans, 1893), hairlined, now untraced. 4) Impaired, Gary Pavietti. [See also P bk. ms.].



Ill. is Small Date Breen I-1; A-1; C-2. .  
See (VIMP) W.Breen autograph Research in the Archives (1951-2) for experimental assay for purity change.

Compare Harry Bass Collection below.



## 1834

Concerning the die-pairings, see WB NB C:107-8, illustrated above.

For additional information see Bibliography below.

**Proofs:** No motto. Plain & crosslet 4, each unique. [See also **P** bk. ms. all varieties detailed.].

### PLAIN 4

I-1: Leaning right 4. 2 in S.I.. Sears 10/1/1907, Holden, N:784, VF. Eliasberg:396, \$16,500.00, Unc.; Carter:669, Unc., #20,900.00.

4 leaning left: Roach:555-6, ex-rare.

**Proof:** B. I-1. S.I., ex Mint Dubious.



Ill. is with motto.

Plain

4. Breen I-1, C-1.

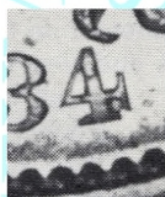
BMM A.Carter 10/55:219 "...plain 4. semi-proof surface."

Uncirculated with

NN #47:760 "[...]Plain 4 in date; date partly recut. [...]". See Bib. below for WB's annot copy.

### CROSSLET 4

**Proof:** Described below, I-3. No space for any such coin in King of Siam set.



Ill. is with motto. Crosslet 4. Breen I-3, C-2A.

B. II-4 NM Plain 4 **Proof** described in detail in WB's copy P.T.A. Breen 2 6/75:377 in Bib. below VIMP.

1834

Total mintage for year, 732,737. Of these, 74,709 were of Type I with motto. These 74,709 break down as follows: 50,141 released from Coiner to Treasurer of the Mint, March 31, per Warrant 1405. The remaining 24,568 never left the mint. They were coined as of May 30, then per Warrant 14134 released from Coiner to Treasurer, from whom they went back to the Melter & Refiner, on all on June 30. They had been held over pending Congressional action on a bill which was to reduce the weight of gold coins, and which became the Act of June 28, 1834. The 50,141 of Type I come in three distinct varieties, one of them of

DNO Parton from King & King & Son  
1834 P set!

NB 98:89-91.

104  
105  
F  
20  
CT [Hyman?] Weikman?  
1853/2 USA 10 10 2, C. S.  
Bill: 1043  
256 34 m "U E  
357 34 " B E

NB 104:106-7..

BMM 3/23/48:3685 "...crosslet 4. Tiny nick on lower left reverse edge..."

BMM A.Carter 10/55:220 "...crosslet 4. Practically unc. ...". —:221 "... Crosslet 4...Duplicate. Fine. ..."

Plain 4 or crosslet in King of Siam set: NB 70:128 see NB 2:146 below for vars..

"H.R. Lee" S 10/47:1253 Plain 4. 'BU' Ex. Bell. \$275.00. Plate. —:1254 Crosslet 4 with motto VF faint scratch on face. Ex. Dunham. \$150.00.

JCM#311, 10/18/33:224 "1834 With motto over eagle on reverse. Uncirculated, proof surface. Very rare. *Illustrated*." \$200.00. [Ill. is not clear enough to show 4 variety.]

Below: Misc. autograph ms.: 1834 M date positions.



B. II-1, B. II-8 described in detail in Bib. below in WB's copy P.T.A. Breen 2  
6/75:378-80.

P121

extreme rarity, the others comparable to the 1830-33 group but usually exaggerated in rarity. The fame of this date as the year of the great change may have had something to do with it.

I-1. Plain 4, leaning right; motto reverse. Clapp 1. Date in a straight line, the 4 tilted notably to right and placed ~~in~~centrally under nearest curl. Reverse similar to 1833 II, but 5D closer spaced. This is low R-6 and may even be high R-5. Most specimens have seen circulation, and there are no proofs reported. Two uncs. are recorded: ~~Skapp~~ Clapp-Eliasberg and ~~the~~ Col. Green piece, the latter pictured over G.H.Hall 1901. Then come a half dozen AU's, possibly more: NN 49<sup>th</sup> sale, wmlot 378, ex Bell I and "Lee"; WGC 379; Wolfson 378; Dr. Green 260; Bell II 610 and Melish 1959. Not all of these may be different, of course. There are also eight or nine different EF's around and nearly the same number of different VF's and Fine's reported. 1150 AK 10/65

I-2. Plain 4, leaning left; motto reverse. Clapp 2. Date curved, the 4 leaning left and placed so that its upright points barely to left edge of nearest curl, almost not under that curl at all. Numerals very closely spaced, more so than on first variety. First star farther from bust than in I-1. <sup>Rev. As preceding.</sup> Clapp knew of it only from H.P.Smith I 226. This may be a reappearance of ~~the~~ Parmelee 1030, which is described as having cracked die. (The crack does not show on the plate, and is probably very faint.) Probably R-8.

I-3. Crosslet 4; motto reverse. Clapp 2A. Immediately identified by the clear crosslet at the end of the crossbar of the 4. Reverse is from the same die as the other two. This is R-6 and rarer than I-1. A single proof is known; Eliasberg, ex Clapp. WGC 380 is possibly the best uncirculated one, though the Lawson coin in the 1947 ANA sale, lot 436, seems to be about its twin, if it is not a reappearance of the same coin. G.H.Hall 1902, also called unc., shows on the plate what looks like cracks through 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> stars; I have never seen a specimen



## Classic Heads

CLASSIC HEADS

**Reduced Weight: No Motto.**

Aug. 1, 1834--Dec. 31, 1838

Mintage 658,028. Two different heads were used for this/issue,

but the delivery dates (see below) give no really clear clue to the respective rarity of the types. ~~There are more dies of the first.~~

|           |         |
|-----------|---------|
| August 25 | 98,075  |
| Sept. 29  | 172,630 |
| Dec. 31   | 387,323 |

Dies by Kneass, as with the quarter eagles of similar design.

Judd 51 and 51a are two copper trialpieces (plain and reeded edges) of this type, but I have not seen them and do not know from which of the two heads they were made. Many proofs exist, and they are found from several different pairs of dies, ~~new~~ which also were used to make business strikes.

First head: ~~Wide~~~~xxxxxx~~~~xxxxxx~~~~xxxxxx~~~~xxxxxx~~ Truncation of bust large and wide. Large 4 as on the dimes.

II-1. (A-4, C-3, N-132.) Curved date, rather widely spaced, the 4 distant; A's clear of wing and arrow, though close; leaf away from U. E below adjacent R. Proofs generally show guide lines (arcs of circles in line with bases of letters) left and right of 5D., left of U, between D-S, between F-A; compare illustration in ANS 1914 and Standard Catalogue. Proofs: Smithsonian; Eliasberg (2); WGC 381x-2 (latter in NN 49<sup>th</sup> sale, lot 386); Kern-Golden Jubilee; etc., etc. Some proofs ~~hasidax~~ evidently went into circulation, as there are "AU" pieces showing earmarks of proof status. There are also business ~~strawikes~~, and the variety is one of the commoner ones of the type. No. 3, ANS 1914.

II-2. (Not in A; CM-5; N-133.) Same obv. Rev. Similar, but A touches  
~~arrow~~ U closer to leaf; top of D recut and leans r. (in UNITED), below  
 ITE; M leans right, its r. base below ER. Without and with cracks from



P 123

curl to border, very slightly r. of midway between 4 and 13<sup>th</sup> star; and vertically from eye to near chin. ~~xxxxxx~~ Cf. Melish 1962. Scarcer than last I; #6, ANS 1914 (?).

II-3. Similar to II-1, but 1st and 13<sup>th</sup> stars farther from bust and curl; 13<sup>th</sup> is in fact about its own width away from curl. Numerals ascend to right, 834 closely spaced, 4 close to curl and wholly under it. Rev. Answers the description of II-1, but without the guide lines. Judd 90 and others. Rare; may be confused with either of preceding or following. This may be #4 of ANS 1914.

II-4. (A-3; C-6; N-131.) Date very closely spaced and high, 8 and 4 lower; first and 13<sup>th</sup> stars very close to bust and curl. Rev. A joins arrow; not impossibly from the die of II-2. Perfect and with crack through 3rd to 6<sup>th</sup> stars and later with shattered obverse. Proofs exist: Melish 1961, etc. ~~xxxxxx~~ Perfect die: "Cicero" 985; cracked die: "Cicero" 984, Bell II 612, NN 54<sup>th</sup> sale, lot 5749, ex WGC 383, gem unc. (Strictly uncirculated half eagles of the 1834-38 period are very seldom encountered. Fairly common.

Second head: Truncation of bust short and narrow. Small 4 as on the dimes. This 4 has a very narrow crossbar.

II-5/. In date 4 practically touches ~~xxxx~~ curl. Rev. Answers description of II-2, II-4; A touches arrow. Rare.

II-6. Obv. as last. Rev. Similar, ~~xxxx~~ final S in STATES plainly recut. Cf. Miami-F.U.N. 4190. Also rare.

II-7. Obv. as last. Rev. as that next to follow, with A's free and leaf distant from U (similar to II-1). Cf. NN 51st sale, lot 983. Rare.

II-8. (A-6; N-4.) Wide date, distant from bust and curl. Most readily identified by having triple cut 4. Base of this 4 is long; the triple cutting (which partly fades, showing only as double in later states) is plainest at right top of upright. This 4 slants left. Rev. Similar to II-1, leaf distant from U, A's free. Cf. "Cicero" 116, and lot 750, NN 54<sup>th</sup> sale. This is apparently #5, ANS 1914. It may also be the variety with cracks from wingtips to borders in Melish 1966, unless

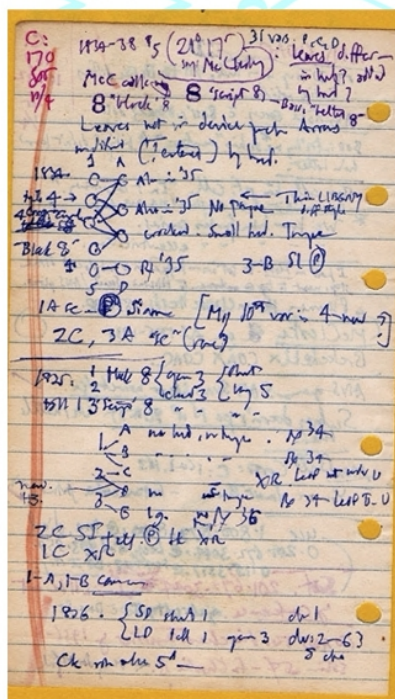


P124

that is the variety next following. Much less rare; fairly often seen.

II-9/. Obv. as last. Rev. Similar, but arrow joins A. First S has what looks like recutting at base. Cf. "Cicero" 986; lot 388, NN 49<sup>th</sup> sale. There may be still other reverses with this comparatively common obverse.

II-10. (A-8; C-E7; N-136.) Crosslet 4. In date 1 and 4 are distant from bust and curl. Rev. Similar to 1835, different from all preceding; smaller arrowheads. A's free of wing and arrow, final A in fact unusually distant from arrow. Discovered in the Cowell collection by Mehl in 1911. By the time of the Wilharm sale of 1921 only two were supposedly known, aside from Clapp's. ~~xxxxxx~~ There are apparently three uncirculated specimens around: (1) Lot 389, NN 49<sup>th</sup> sale, ex "Memorable" and Melish 1968. (2) Geiss 1692, two minute rev. rim nicks. (3) No. 3880, Numisma, March 1956, at \$180. There are four or five in VF or better grade, and all others seen are worn. The variety is a full R-6, and is in a ~~xxxx~~ rarity class with the crosslet 4 variety with motto.



NB 100:169-71 follow below. Die pairings.



From the same dies as the proofs.

SEE TITLE PAGE ATTACHED  
NOTES FROM 2ND ED → 1834  
16TH CONG. LOTENS SENT SAT 254.8  
SERIAL ROOM DTD 12/2/33 RESPONSE  
TO CARLTON (MA V3)

While the Act of June 28, 1834, which reduced the weight of the gold coins from 67.5 grains to 64.5 grains, and modified the composition of standard gold by increasing the percentage of the alloy, was being prepared, the Director of the Mint, Samuel Moore, made a report to the Speaker of the House on January 11, 1833, regarding the proper alloy of gold to be used for gold coins. He apparently hoped to have a clause inserted in the bill authorizing the addition of some silver to the copper used as the alloy in the standard gold, in order to improve the color of the gold coins. He pointed out that experiments had established that a "gold coin alloyed with about one-twelfth of its weight of silver and copper combined resists the effects of attrition, at least as effectually as any other proportion, and that an alloy slightly greater or less is not sensibly inferior in this respect. For the purpose of exhibiting the degree of approximation of the color of fine gold produced by various proportions of silver and copper employed as an alloy of gold coin, a number of specimens of the quarter eagle are forwarded with the report, to which the House is respectfully referred. (The numbers are designated by minute points impressed on the reverse of each coin above the head of the eagle.)

"No. 1 consists of 61 $\frac{1}{2}$ % grains of pure gold, being the quantity at present required in the quarter eagle.

"No. 2 contains 61 $\frac{1}{2}$ % grains of pure gold and 5% grains of alloy, making 67 $\frac{1}{2}$ % grains, the weight of a quarter eagle of our present standard. The alloy in this specimen consists of silver alone. *TOO PALE*

"No. 3 is of the same weight and fineness as No. 2, but alloyed with silver and copper in equal proportions. *BETTER*

"No. 4 is of the same weight and fineness as the preceding, but alloyed wholly with copper.

"No. 5 weighs 66 grains, of which 59.4 consist of pure gold and 6.6 grains of alloy.

19 *BETTER*  
#526 RETOWED  
CONFORM TO PROPOSED CHANGE TO 26.4 GR  
(EAGLE) 237.6 AW 26.4 ALLOY

*15.5% - 19.5%  
BY PROPOSING  
OUT V. PRE  
A. W. M.  
CHANGE  
SUCCESS  
UP RETURN  
IN 70  
AN ASSAY  
PERMIT 100;  
LEGAL  
TENDERS  
14-106  
168 GR  
BY LAW  
NOT BY  
1944  
1-11-32*

Walter Breens annotated Judd 3rd. Annot. above by B. Vogel.

#### 1834 Continued

alloy, which alloy consists of silver and copper in equal proportions.

"No. 6 is of the same weight and fineness as the preceding, but alloyed with silver and copper in the proportion of one part of the former to two parts of the latter.

"The first four specimens are of the intrinsic value of our present quarter eagle. The fifth and sixth are conformable to the coinage in which the eagle would contain 264 grains of standard gold, consisting of 237.6 grains of pure gold and 26.4 grains of alloy."

Apparently all of these were melted as none are known to exist today.

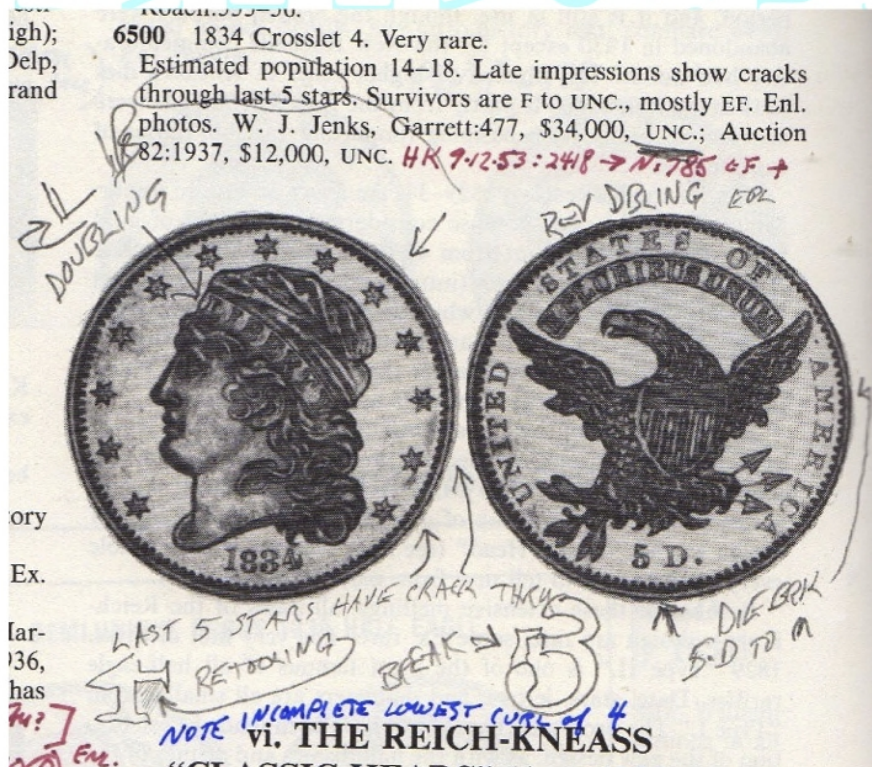
**QUARTER DOLLAR.** Regular dies trial piece.

**50. Copper**—R.E. R.8. Two known.

**HALF EAGLE.** Regular dies trial piece without E PLURIBUS UNUM on the reverse.

**51. Copper**—P.E. (A-W 40) R.8.

**51a. Copper**—R.E. R.8.



Bruce Vogel's Breen Ency, after Breen.

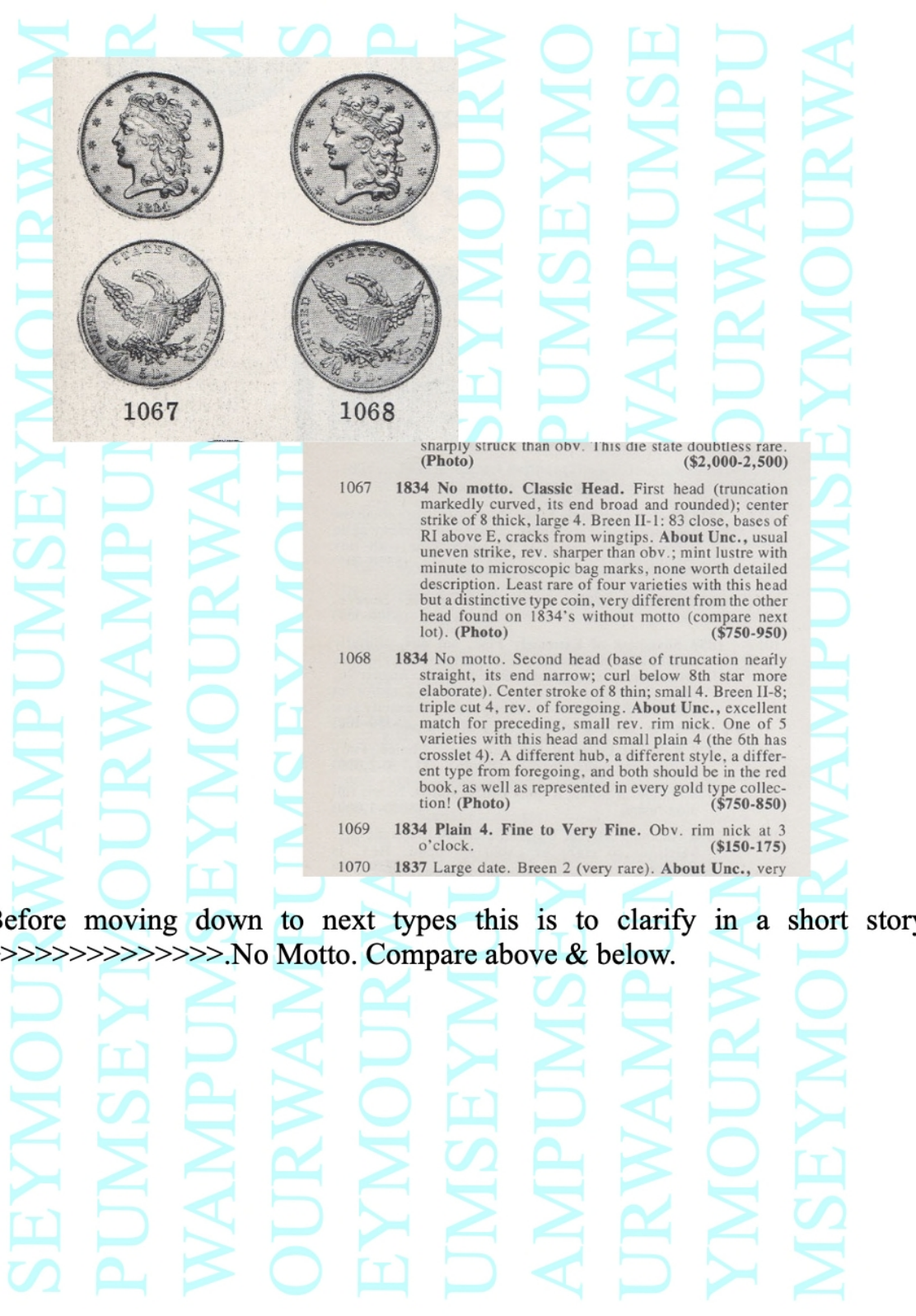
See Hoards below: 15 pieces. Type and variety not stated; in fact article shows typo 1934.

Compare Harry Bass Collection below.

<<Below to assist in Head 1, Head 2 identification>>>WB's Breen III>>>>>>edit>>>>>>

424-1/72:811. JP  
 1834 M { 5 4 → under Hw  
           { 4 → A IC  
           { 4 → L. A, L. I. Ck  
           { 4 → MERIC-  
 resch





sharply struck than obv. This die state doubtless rare.  
(Photo) (\$2,000-2,500)

- 1067 **1834 No motto. Classic Head.** First head (truncation markedly curved, its end broad and rounded); center strike of 8 thick, large 4. Breen II-1: 83 cused, bases of RI above E, cracks from wingtips. **About Unc.**, usual uneven strike, rev. sharper than obv.; mint lustre with minute to microscopic bag marks, none worth detailed description. Least rare of four varieties with this head but a distinctive type coin, very different from the other head found on 1834's without motto (compare next lot). **(Photo)** **(\$750-950)**
- 1068 **1834 No motto.** Second head (base of truncation nearly straight, its end narrow; curl below 8th star more elaborate). Center stroke of 8 thin; small 4. Breen II-8; triple cut 4, rev. of foregoing. **About Unc.**, excellent match for preceding, small rev. rim nick. One of 5 varieties with this head and small plain 4 (the 6th has crosslet 4). A different hub, a different style, a different type from foregoing, and both should be in the red book, as well as represented in every gold type collection! **(Photo)** **(\$750-850)**
- 1069 **1834 Plain 4. Fine to Very Fine.** Obv. rim nick at 3 o'clock. **(\$150-175)**
- 1070 **1837 Large date.** Breen 2 (very rare). **About Unc.**, very

Before moving down to next types this is to clarify in a short story.  
>>>>>>>>>>.No Motto. Compare above & below.



## CLASSIC HEAD 1834-38 introduction.

See 1834 information above & below for design change.

Coinages of the new design far exceeded even the Mint's most optimistic expectations. The coins went at once into circulation & stayed there, few were saved as souvenirs, As a result, mint-state survivors are very rare, though Fine to Very Fine specimens are plentiful. These are mementos of a period of rapid change, expansion, & experimentation at the Mint, immediately succeeded by decades of Coronet Design stereotypy. We are only at the beginning of knowledge about the numerous varieties of this series. Unlisted ones almost certainly exist.

Ever since regular coinage began in 1793, the Mint's principal output tended to consist of one denomination of copper cents, silver half-dollars and gold half-eagles. During the institution's first 50-or-so years, it produced more dies for any one of these denominations than for all the remaining denominations combined. The problem created by increasing coinage output in the 1820's & '30's was always to multiply working dies identical in principal devices: Stereotypy was wrongly believed a deterrent against counterfeiting.

This problem became acute after Congress passed the Mint Act of June 28, 1834, reducing the weight of all gold coins. As soon as it became apparent that this bill had a good chance of passage, the [24,568] half eagles with motto held in the Mint since manufacture, May 30, went back to the Melter & Refiner. Someone, at least one, must have said "...you mean I have to do this again...". Anticipating floods of old-tenor 1795-1834 gold for recoinage, Mint Director Samuel Moore ordered Engraver William Kneass to prepare new dies in quantity. Instead of following the original congressional recommendation to distinguish the new dies by adding AUGUST 1, 1834 to the date, Moore ordered Kneass to redesign them omitting the Great Seal's motto E PLURIBUS UNUM. Moore had been trying to phase out this motto since 1831. Moore ordered Kneass to improve the designs, omitting the motto EPU 'One made up of many', as redundant, & to express nothing more than UNITED STATES. The Treasury Department attempted to force its restoration, but Moore traveled to Washington, D.C., to justify his action, & the new coins remained without the motto. See also quarter eagle 1834-9. Partly to save time, partly through personal preference, Kneass always chose to adapt older designs, & this time the honor went to John Reich's "Classic



Head" effigy, as seen on half cents 1809-11, 1825-34, & cents 1808-14. The eagle was an adaptation of one Reich had put on half eagles in 1807. This time nobody fussed about the design's androgynous quality. See Numisma #1 & Penny Whimsey. But for one or another reason, Kneass & later Gobrecht made at least 8 modifications of it before abandoning it for the "Coronet" concept, see next section.

Many dies needed to be completed in a few weeks so large quantities of gold coins could be on hand to pay the first of long lines of depositors on Aug. 1, the effective date of the new Mint Act. Each working obv. required no less than 17 design elements, 13 stars & date, to be added by hand, plus probably 80-odd blows from a twin-pellet punch to make the border, over & above the head punch. Each rev. was still worse: 22 letters & numeral punch 5, plus the border, in addition to the eagle punch. Every die needed hand strengthening, basining, & polishing. This experience sufficiently explains why the new experiments of this period culminated in a design whose entirety could be hubbed except for date & mintmark (1839).

It has been estimated that over 99% of the original melt of pre-1834 old-tenor coins did materialize, & was melted. 1843-43 much of these coins were old-tenor. Some was Georgia bullion. Hazards of shipping Southern gold was realized & Branch Mints were established in 1838 in Charlotte & Dahlonega, see next section.

See ms. Classic Head Half Eagles 1834-1838 in Bibliography below.

See Bib. below letter to WB from Craig Sholley Re: master die research.

### **Grading 1834-5.**

Grade range, Very Good to Unc.; not collected in low grades.

**Fine:** Partial hair detail, ear outlined, headband edges worn, partial wing & neck feathers, partial shield details.

**Very Fine:** All major hair contours show; over half wing & neck feathers.

**Extremely Fine:** Isolated tiny rubbed spots only; partial mint luster.

Note: Beware specimens with traces of solder removed. Centers often weak. See Grading above as to why Breen said Sheldon 1-70 scale is in error. First, it did not work for large size copper cents, & was never designed for silver & gold.



## 1834

Concerning the die-pairings, see NB C:170-1, illustrated above.

See ms. text a few pages above (also ms. in Bibliography below) for variety detail descriptions.

Ill. is no motto proof.  
C-6.



Breen



II-4,

### PLAIN 4

Plain 4, rev lapped right wing.



Ill. is no motto, plain 4.  
C-5.



Breen II-2,

PCA III 2/14/77:330 \$625.00. "... Plain 4. No Motto. Choice About Uncirculated-55..." Plate.

Detailed descriptions B. II-1; B. II-1; B. II-4; B. II-4; B. II-9; B. II-9; B. II-9, see WB's annot. G.E.N.A. P.T.A. 11/1975:1483-90 in Bib. below.



Breen II-1 described in WB's copy G.E.N.A. P.T.A. 9/1974:1910 'NM 1st head', —:1911. —:1912 'NM 2nd head, Type of 1835' in Bib. below, compares differences in varieties.

## CROSSLET 4

See illustration above at 1834: B. I-3.

Ill. is Second head; crosslet 4; smaller arrows. Center stroke of 8 thick; smaller knobs to 3. Discovered by J.H. Clapp. Discovery coin, Clapp, Eliasberg(:401, \$1,650.00, EF, 1980 ANA:229, \$11,500.00 AU). Elder claimed discovery 3/24/1911, Woodin:1406.



Ill. is no motto, crosslet 4. Breen II-10, C-7.



Ill. is no motto, plain 4. Breen II-1, C-3.





NB 100:169-70 right. Die pairings, for complete set see top few pages.

**Proofs:** First Head. Eliasberg, Breen invitation, see below. B. II-1.: [2+] Truncation wide & large; large 4; wide date, 4 away from curl, A's clear of wing & arrow, leaf away from U. Early state: Guide lines left of & right of 5D., left base of U (hold coin so that U is upright), between bases of D S, between bases of F A. 1) S.I., ex Mint. 2) Clapp, Eliasberg (above?). 3) Norweb. 4) Parmelee:1031, Woodin, Boyd, WGC:381. Ill. 1914 ANS, pl. 15. 5) WGC:382, Eliasberg, NN 49:386, M.A.C. Minor rubbing. 6) J. Kern, "Golden Jubilee":365. 7) "Melish":1962, Kagin, somewhat impaired. 8) Col. Flanagan:1112, Mason Williams:1006, possibly same as one of above.

“H.R. Lee” S 10/47:1255 “1834 New type. no Motto. A brilliant proof with high edge, full lustre, [...].” \$30.00. Plate.

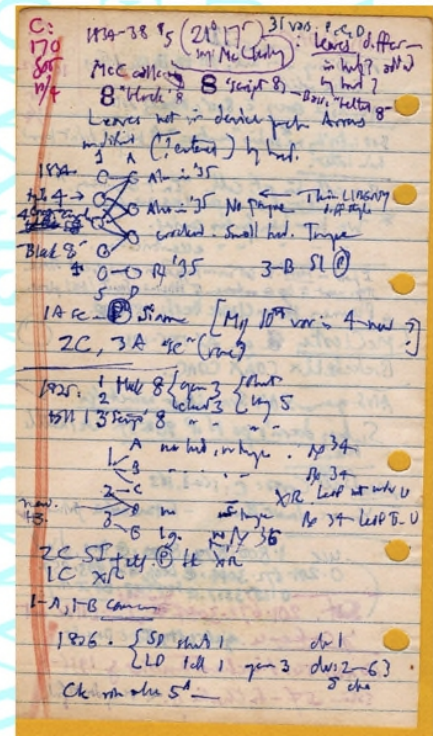
First Head equivalent: McClosky 1-A, 3-A, 3-B, 3-C, all McC #'s to follow are from Breen's annot. Ency.. Allton:2265, ex Morse, Renz, was one counterstamped C. BECHTLER N.C. 22 (=22 carats).

See CW 10/19/1988, p. 73.

Second Head; small plain 4. Curl below 8th star more elaborate, see ms. text above for more details. Center stroke 8 thin; large knobs to 3. McC 2-B ill. Ency p.527, 2nd right.

First Head equivalent: McC 2-A, 2-B, 2-C, 4-C.

McC says his 3-A, 3-B, 3-C have thick center 8, 4 d. This is the above First Head; large plain 4.





Second Head; crosslet 4, smaller arrows. Center stroke of 8 thick, smaller knobs to 3. Discovered by J.H. Clapp. Discovery coin is either Woodin:1406 (Elder 3/24/1911) or Clapp, Eliasberg:401. Probably the former. Equivalent McC 5-D.

Worn 1834 1/2 Eagle was found in S.S. Central America treasure find with a triple punched 4. Which variety is this?

Remember that the second head, with small narrow truncation, & always with small 4, appears on at least 6 varieties including the famous Crosslet 4 as well as on 3 varieties of 1835, & that the rev. of the Crosslet 4 coin reappears in 1835. From this we may conclude that the second head was employed into use late, that the small 4 punch followed the breaking of the large 4 (seen on dime obverses), & that presumably the large 4 dime obverses must have preceded the small 4 obverses on order of manufacture. This argument alluded to earlier for placing the large 4 coins first.

It is very significant that the mint did not have any leftover half-eagles with motto for use in the sets for Siam & Muscat. It is unlikely that more than one or two sets were made up early 1834 for collectors or other reasons. If sets were made they included the quarter eagle & half eagle with motto.

RitA Mint Letter 1834 Proof Set, below.




Department of State —  
Washington, Nov<sup>r</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 1834.

Sir, / The President has directed that a complete set of Coins of U.S. be sent to the King of Siam, & another to the Sultan of Muscat. You are requested, ... to forward to the Department, for that purpose, duplicate specimens of each kind now in use, whether of A, A or E — As to boxes in which they are the contents, may be well neatly & appropriately made at Philadelphia, if your direction, than they could be here, it is desired to procure them, if it will not be too much trouble, & have the coins suitably arranged in them before they are sent on. They to be of as small a size as is consistent w<sup>th</sup> purpose for which they are intended; & to be of a work, covered of fine muslin. The color of one to be yellow, & of other crimson — You are authorized to draw upon the Department for the value of coins, & the expense of boxes —

I v<sup>l</sup> have to be, Sir,  
Very respectfully,  
Your obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>  
John Forsyth

OC NN 1952 ANA:589 "New type, no motto over eagle. Impaired **Proof**. Mostly brilliant, but unfortunately mishandles." Sold to Fast \$12. See Bib. below.

Compare Harry Bass Collection below.



Lot No. 407

|     |      |  |
|-----|------|--|
| 407 | 1834 | Plain 4. Classic head type without motto. <i>sharp</i> <i>for holding</i> <b>Gem</b> Uncirculated. Die crack connects rim to second through fourth stars on left. Truly scarce this nice. <b>PLATE</b> |
| 408 | 1834 | Plain 4. no motto. Choice About Uncirculated. Traces of proof-like surface. An attractive specimen with traces of mint lustre. <b>II-4</b>   |
| 409 | 1834 | Plain 4. no motto. Choice About Uncirculated. <i>sharp</i> Mint lustre. Very sharp strike. <b>II-8/2</b>   |
| 410 | 1834 | Plain 4. no motto. Sharp Extremely Fine. Considerable mint lustre. <b>II-8</b>   |
| 411 | 1834 | Plain 4. no motto. <del>Choice</del> Very Fine.  |
| 412 | 1834 | Plain 4. 1835 and 1836 – attractive Very Fine. The lot of 3 different dates.   |

WB's annot. K 1/75:407-12 above.

See Bib. below for WB's copy P.T.A. Breen 2 6/1975:380.



- 1067 1834 No motto. Classic Head. First head (truncation markedly curved, its end broad and rounded); center strike of 8 thick, large 4. Breen II-1: 83 close, bases of RI above E, cracks from wingtips. **About Unc.**, usual uneven strike, rev. sharper than obv.; mint lustre with minute to microscopic bag marks, none worth detailed description. Least rare of four varieties with this head but a distinctive type coin, very different from the other head found on 1834's without motto (compare next lot). (Photo) (\$750-950)
- 1068 1834 No motto. Second head (base of truncation nearly straight, its end narrow; curl below 8th star more elaborate). Center stroke of 8 thin; small 4. Breen II-8; triple cut 4, rev. of foregoing. **About Unc.**, excellent match for preceding, small rev. rim nick. One of 5 varieties with this head and small plain 4 (the 6th has crosslet 4). A different hub, a different style, a different type from foregoing, and both should be in the red book, as well as represented in every gold type collection! (Photo) (\$750-850)
- 1069 1834 Plain 4. Fine to Very Fine. Obv. rim nick at 3 o'clock. (\$150-175)
- 1070 1837 Large date. Breen 2 (very rare). **About Unc.**, very



## 1835

Concerning the die-pairings, see NB C:107-8, illustrated by WB above.

Ill. is Unc.,  
3.



narrow truncation,

1835

Mintage 371,534. Two different head punches were used for the coins of this year as well. They correspond to the second head of 1834-II (as in varieties II-5 through II-10) and to the head of 1836 respectively. There were apparently at least seven varieties, but I have usable descriptions of only three of these, and the others are evidently very rare. One of them, Stickney 680, with unusually large letters, has never been seen since the 1907 Stickney sale. Much of the large mintage of this year and 1836 came from recoinced old-tenor gold, some of it from the half-eagles of 1834 which were not released from the mint, the remainder from deposits of old-tenor gold made by the local banks. At \$106.60 per \$100, such recoinage was profitable. The 1835 Mint Director's Report alludes to these recoinages.

First Head. Narrow, short end to truncation. Small 1 in date.

1. First star over 3 mm distant from bust, similar to 1834. The



Ill. Second head.



To compare 1835 First Head with Second Head with newer information: B. II-10, B-2, "[...]not in original monograph[...]" B-8, see Bib. below, EXIMP WB's copy G.E.N.A. P.T.A. 9/1974:1913-5.

P125

1 in date is short, less tall than the adjacent 8, leading this to be sometimes called a small date. Rev. Same as 1834 II-10. Leaf distant Middle leaf group dropps. from U./ Judd 91. Not particularly rare. This was #4, ANS 1914.

2. First star considerably less distant from bust. Short 1 as preceding. Rev. Leaf runs into base of U. Proofs are known from this die: (1) Smithsonian, from Mint Collection; (2) Parmelee 1047, to Woodin, #1, ANS 1914; Newcomer; probably this was the F.C.C. Boyd coin, subsequently in WGC 385 and "Memorable" 334. I have heard of still others. There were also business strikes from this die; cf. lot 390, NN 49<sup>th</sup> sale. Scarce, not rare.

3. Obv. as preceding. Rev. Leaves quite distant from U. Compare "Cicero" 117 and 987. Rare.

Short,

Second Head. ~~Long~~ thick end to truncation, entirely unlike 1834 II (either head) and far more similar to 1836-37 obverses. Tall 1 in date with sharp peak.

4. First star quite close to bust. Only the one obverse definitely identified from this head. Rev. Same as last. Cf. lot 391, NN 49<sup>th</sup> sale, And lot 1849 of the Stack Jan. 1958 sale. Very scarce.

Uncertain whether ~~having~~ having First or Second Head are the following three:

5. One leaf ~~near~~ immediately below U, one immediately left of it (probably close to it); final A away from arrow; this reverse not the same as variety No. 1. ANS 1914 #2. <sup>th</sup>

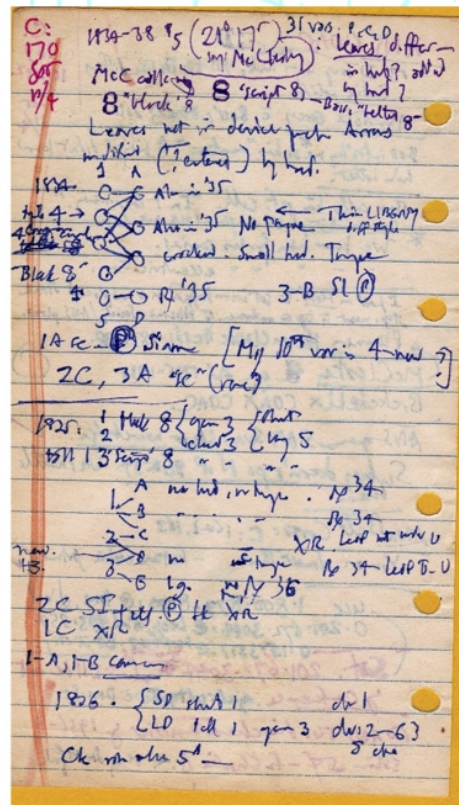
6. Similar to last, but with final A firmly touching arrow. ANS 1914 #3.

7. Large reverse letters, unlike all other 1835's. Stickney 680. Doubtless all three of these are rare.



1.: Center stroke 8 thick, "Closed 3" upper knob about touches cusp. McC 3-E?  
 2.: Center stroke 8 thin; open 3.  
 Third head, large date. Center stroke 8 thin, open 3. Proof & business strikes these dies. McC ? 2-D?

**Proof:** [2+] 3 or 4 known. B-2: 3) 1946 ANA:1285, impaired. Another reported, Wayte Raymond knew one more, ca. 1950. The Parmelee:1047, Woodin.... set has frosted reverse device & letters.



NB 100:169-70.

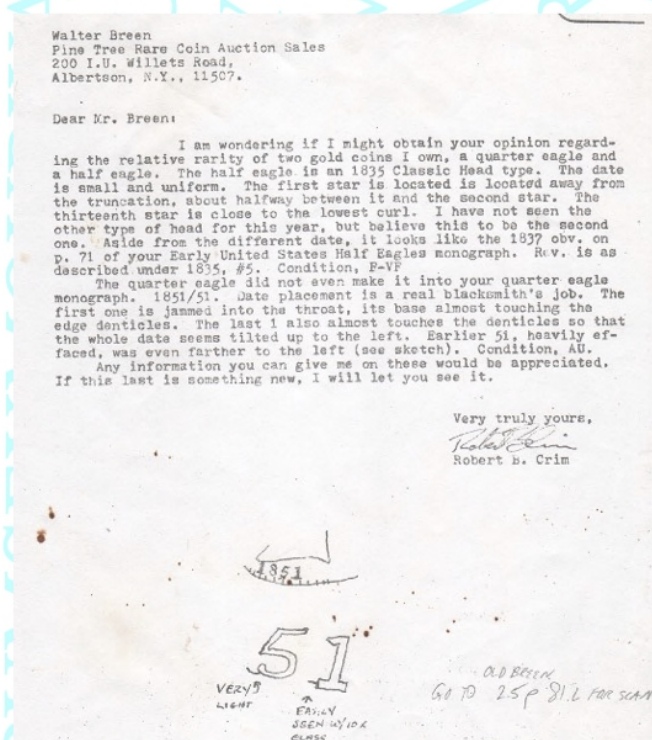
Equivalent: McC 1- First Head; small date.

PCA III 2/14/77:332 \$210.00. "Very Fine, many field nicks and edge nick over E in AMERICA [piece 1]; and 1836 [Piece 2] Very Fine-25. Variety with vertical die break thru date from rim to rim...scratch on cheek..."

Compare Harry Bass Collection below.

See WB's annot. CSNA catalogue below, lot 879 was listed as 1836, act0 WB: 1835.

1835 First Head described in WB's copy P.T.A. Breen 2 6/75:381 in Bib. below.



Above letter in WB archives; no response/opinion found.



## GOBRECHT'S TRANSITIONAL HEADS, 1836-38.

Concerning the die-pairings, see NB C:107-8, illustrated above.

**This date is NOT completed**

Without doubt undiscovered varieties exist.

<<<<<<<<<<<<<verify

Ill. is Breen 5. NN 9/1955, acto rev. of photo.

This has 1 short "Small date" so it is not #5. It is not #1 close 5D, no berry; #2 leaf nearest 5 longer than its neighbor, not. #3, not.>>>>>>>>>>>>



1 8 3 6

Mintage 553,147, a figure not to be exceeded until 1843, and not again until 1847, 1852, 1861 and 1880 (after which we are in common gold territory). This large mintage--save for 1834 the largest since the



P126

mint began manufacturing half-eagles--came from bullion ~~xxxxxx~~ originating partly in melted-down old tenor gold and partly from French indemnity gold, representing a personal triumph for Andrew Jackson. The head found on these coins is most like ~~the~~ 1835 No. 4, and unlike earlier ~~heads~~ in having a double lock at brow. I can identify six varieties, but strongly suspect that more exist. Of these only one is really very common, and it seems to form the majority of 1836's examined. I have not recently enough examined any of the known proofs of 1836 to learn which variety they belong to. One is in the Smithsonian; another was Parmelee 1054, later owned by H.P. Smith, and I last saw it or its twin in ~~an exhibit~~ exhibit of proof sets some years ago. *Possibly all are #4's.*

Group One. Short 1 in date. "Small date."

1. 13<sup>th</sup> star close to curl. Rev. Closely spaced 5 D. <sup>No berry.</sup> Later, crack from rim through E in STATES to eagle's head, shield, leaves and lower rim. Compare Melish 18974. Rare. This is McClapp 2.

2. Similar obverse, perhaps the same die. Perfect and with break from rim through 8<sup>th</sup> star, head, curls, 6 and border. Rev. Closely spaced 5 D. Long slender leaves, that nearest the 5 longer than its neighbor. Long arrowheads, one touching final A; no berry. TES closely spaced. N filled. This is the so-called "large 5D" variety in lot 1238, 1958 N.Y. Metropolitan sale. Cf. "Cicero" 118, ex lot 38393, NN 49<sup>th</sup> sale. This may also be the die of Melish 18972, described as having high 6, close 5D, small crack on cheek. Less rare.

3. Very closely spaced date. Somewhat similar reverse, with berry in branch. Known only from ANS 1914, #3. Doubtless very rare.

II Group Two. Tall 1 in date. "Large date."

4. Rather closely spaced date, the 1 taller than 8 or 3. 13<sup>th</sup> star distant from curl. One denticle above 7<sup>th</sup> star is too short. Rev. Leaves shorter than in foregoing dies. T E S widely spaced. 5 D widely spaced. First A barely free of wing; final A distant from arrowhead.

4) Proofs: 2 known, 1 in S.I..

See Bibliography below for WB's original ms. concerning 1836-5.



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Clapp 1;

This is the commonest variety of the date. /ANS 1914 #1; "Cicero" 119; lot 1538, 1958 NYC Metropolitan Convention sale, brilliant unc.; Miami-F.U.N. 4193; lot 392, NN 49<sup>th</sup> sale; Melish 1975m, etc. Proofs reported.

5. Same obverse die as preceding. Rev. Widely spaced 5 Dm, the period after D too low (in #4 it is above base are line of 5 D). A berry in branch. ANS 1914 #2; "Cicero" 120. Very rare.

6. Very ~~wide~~ widely spaced date. Without and with vertical die break from border almost touching r. side of 8 and running up through curls. Rev. Very small 5, wide 5 D, with berry in branch, very small arrowheads (smaller even than in #1). I have heard of only three: "Cicero" 121; 1958 N.Y. Metropolitan sale, lot 1378; lot 1851, Stack Jan. 30, 1958 sale. Doubtless very rare.

It is probable that other varieties exist of this date even as early as 1834 and 1835. Collectors owning pieces not identifiable by the above descriptions are invited to communicate with me.

Collector Circulation (CC) update via WB (died April 28th 12:30 AM, 1993) archives:

Breen B-5 described in Bib. below, WB's copy G.E.N.A. P.T.A. 9/1974:1916.

Breen B-4 details in Bib. P.T.A. Breen 2 6/75:382-3.

Breen B-10 as last.

First Head, small 5. Similar to 1835 Third Head but top ribbon end horizontally ribbed; single forelock. Slender arrowheads, small 5. Many of this date delivered in 1837.

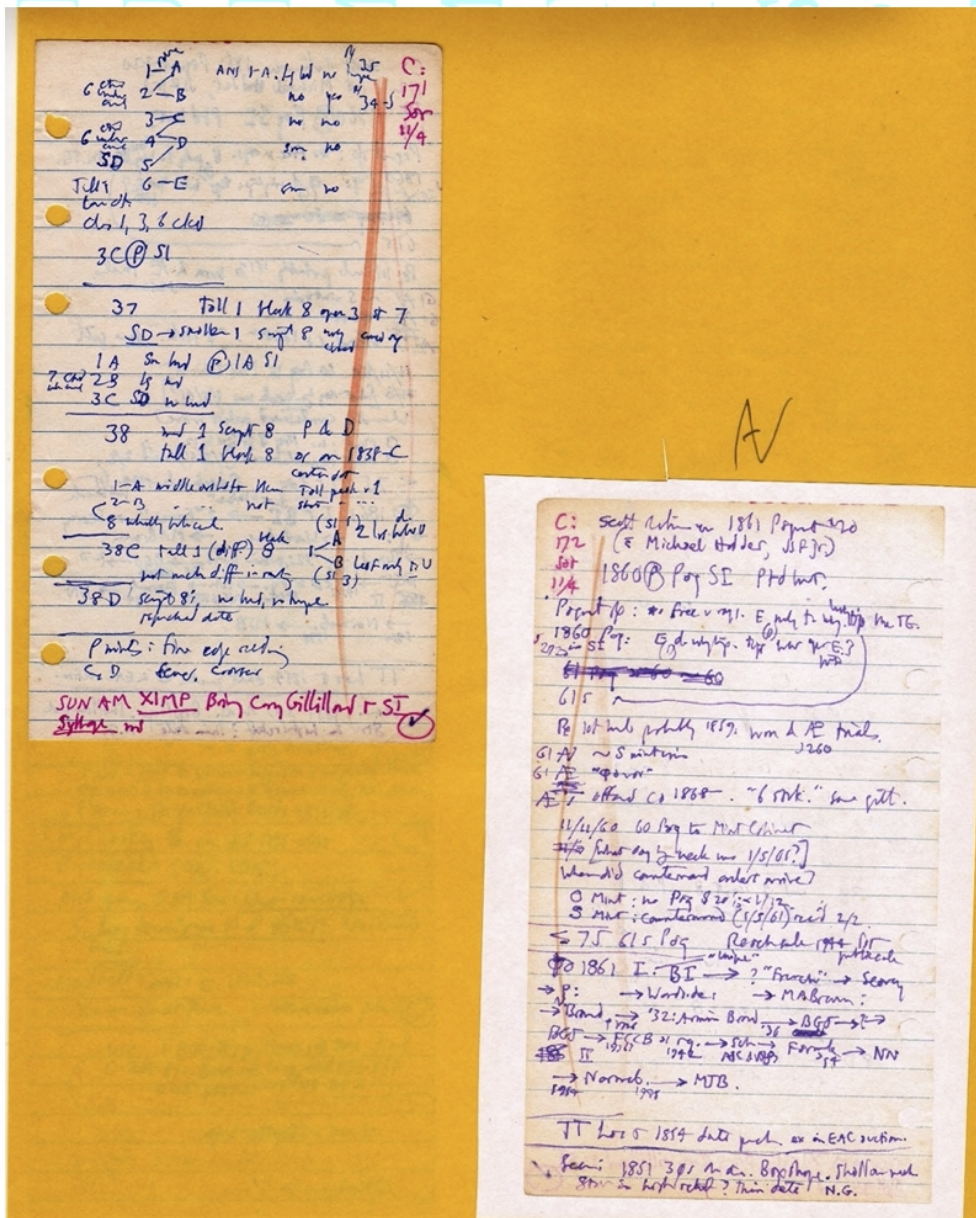
Second Head, small wide date, large 5. Wide rounded end to truncation, top ribbon end plain, double forelock; 1 shorter than 8, knobs of 3 closer to cusp, 6 narrow.

Second Head, large close date, large 5. As last but tall 1, knobs of 3 far apart, tall broad 6. Randall, Garrett:369 (1976), \$4,500.00.Unc..

Third head; shorter talons, large 5. Similar, but truncation less curved, its end broader than on first head; curls above LIB differ from both; single forelock. Talons shorter, sharper, & less curved; no berry in branch. 2 **proofs** known:

(nt. 2) Parmelee, 2054, Mills, H.P. Smith, Farouk, NY Specialist.





NB 100:169-70. NB 100:171-2.

Detailed descriptions B.-4; B-5; B-5; B-5; B-7, in Bib. below WB's annot. G.E.N.A. P.T.A. 11/1975:1491-95.

PCA III 2/14/77:333 \$170.00. "[...] Very Fine-35[...]."

Phila. coins fine edge reeding, C, D coarse (fe \_\_\_\_). Ency annot, lower left.  
See Hoards below: 12 pieces.  
Compare Harry Bass Collection below.

413 1836 <sup>85</sup> Sharp Very Fine; and 1837 <sup>81</sup> evenly circulated Fine-Very Fine. The lot of 2 pieces. ✓

WB's annot. K 1/75:413 above.



1837

Concerning the die-pairings, see NB C:107-8, illustrated above.



1837

Mintage 207,121, including many most probably dated 1836. This date is much more seldom seen than 1836 in all grades. Only three varieties known, one of them very rare. The lower mintage probably testifies to a slackening off in deposits of both old-tenor gold and French indemnity gold.

Group One. Large dates.

Clapp 1.

1. Head of 1835, single forelock. Date in large figures, the 1 (taller than 8), 3 open and low, tall, ~~the 7 under curl~~ the 7 under curl, the whole date in a curve, and widely spaced. Rev. First A touches wing, final A free of arrow; with berry in branch; medium wide 5 D, very small 5 as in 1836 #6. This is by far the commonest variety of the year, but it is not nearly as common as 1834 II-1, II-4, or 1836 #4. Cf. lot 394, NN 49<sup>th</sup> sale; ~~the~~ Straus 1566; "Cicero" 122; lot 1852, Stack sale of Jan. 1958, <sup>Melish 1978,</sup> etc.

2. Head of 1836, double forelock. Large date as preceding, but

1. These are **proof** dies. 1) Mint, S.I. McC 1-A.

B-2 Described in detail in Bib. in WB's copy P.T.A. Breen 2 6/75:385 Head of 1836, double forelock 'EF'. Also desc. in WB's copy P.T.A. Breen III 6/78:1070 LD 'AU' in Bib. below.

This date is incomplete, what var is ill above? WB did not note var. rev. of photo.

See Bibliography below for information on WB's original ms. 1837-2, 1837-3.

P128

closely spaced and in a straight line, the 7 right of center below curl.  
Rev. Wider 5 D, with large 5; both A's free; with berry in branch. Much  
rarer than last. Cf. lot 395, NN 49<sup>th</sup> sale. Clapp 2.

Group Two. Small date.

3. Small date, the 1 not as tall as the 8, knobs of 3 nearly touching;  
numerals very closely spaced and placed high. Head of 1835, single  
forelock. Rev. Similar, but without berry in branch. The rarest variety  
of the year. <sup>C-3.</sup> Landau 734, unc., is one of the two best; most specimens  
seen are well worn. Discovered by Clapp; rediscovered by D.M. Bullowa, and  
published in the Oct. 1949 Numismatist, p. 612.

A proof is in the Smithsonian, but I do not know ~~which~~ which variety  
it is. I vaguely remember that it has large date.

3.: Usually in low grades; only 2 Unc's. seen by Breen. McC 3-C.  
B-3 described in WB's copy G.E.N.A. P.T.A. 'Small Date; Head of 1835[...]'  
9/1974:1917 in Bib. below.  
For detailed descriptions see Bib. below, WB's annot G.E.N.A. P.T.A.  
11/1975:1496-8.

37 Tall 1 Head 8 open 3 st 7  
SD → smaller 1 sm 8 very curved  
1A Sm head (P) 1A SI  
7 ch 2B lg head  
3C SD w head

NB 100:171-2.

Compare Harry Bass Collection below.



1838



NB 97:51 \$5. 1838 **Proof**.

PCA III 2/14/77:334 \$325.00. "Extremely Fine-35..."

K 1/75:414 B-1. —:415 B-1.



III. is 1838 C. Mint mark above date.

1 8 3 8

Mintage 288,538. Only two varieties reported for this year, despite the larger mintage; if any others exist, they may safely be called very rare. The only proof known to me is in the Omaha City Library, ex Byron Reed estate; I do not know from which dies it was struck.

1. Compact small 5, broad leaves, heavy claws, large arrowheads, T E S closely spaced; similar to the die of 1837 #1. Clapp 1; lot 396, NN 49<sup>th</sup> sale; "Cicero" 124 and 989; NN 50<sup>th</sup> sale, lot 842; Ryder-Melish 1979; lot 1854, Stack ~~XXXXX~~ Jan. 1958 sale. The majority of specimens reported for this year are from these dies.

2. Open large 5, slender leaves, thin claws, small short arrowheads, T E S spaced ~~every~~ widely. Somewhat similar to 1837 #2. Clapp 2. Cf. lot 397, NN 49<sup>th</sup> sale; lot 753, NN 54<sup>th</sup> sale; "Cicero" 125; lot 1853, Stack Jan. 1958 sale; lot 3883, Numisma, March 1956. Rare, probably one quarter as often seen as foregoing.

1 8 3 8 C

<sup>79</sup>  
Mintage 17,1~~3~~. This figure is wildly at variance with all previous publications, and even it is likely to include some small number of assay coins, which should properly have been deducted. There were, according



Concerning the die-pairings, see NB C:107-8, illustrated above.  
B-1 described in WB's copy G.E.N.A. P.T.A. 9/1974:1918 in Bib. below.

### **1838-C**

Mintage began 3/27/1838.

Ill.: Note lapped rev., left wing (eagle's right)  
lower details gone; thin above.



Charlotte Mint Bullion Journal: CMBJ #1:

Accounts for only 10,959 + 27 for Assay, to  
Phila. 12,913 [12,906] & DC pshd.(Y): see 1839.

5/2: 2,625-6A; 5/17: 2,084-4A; 6/29: 1,704-4 A;

9/10: 4,449-9A; 10/16: 2,024-4A.

CM Assay numbers: From 2,024 mintage 4 to Assay 10/16. See Bibliography  
below.

Phila. coins fine edge reeding, C, D coarse. This continues for about 10 years.  
"Slabbing" certainly hinders the authentication of such edged reeding.

Unknown to Breen in above ms. he later found proof dies were #1.

B-1: Repunched 5: 5 first punched too high, then corrected; this fades. See  
cracks described ms. below.

B-2: Do not confuse with B-1. above: ST below A; break, rim through U,  
feathers, shield, right rim near wingtip. "Melish":1982. Struck before B-1:  
2/19-4/16/1839, before the 1839 dies were shipped from Phila. See CMBJ  
above. See Bib. below for description of die state II in WB's copy G.E.N.A.  
P.T.A. 9/1974:1974. —: B-2 earlier die state. See also P.T.A. Breen 2  
6/75:389 in Bib. below.

See WB's G&SCRSBM in Bibliography below. Mintage dates.

Usually VF, prohibitively rare Unc..

BMM 3/23/48:3731 "[...]Small mint letter C[...]." \$12.65. See 1839-C.

See Smithsonian bequest below, also 1838-C \$2 1/2, 1838 \$10.00.

See Bib. below for 'C-Mint 1837' description from ARDM 1913.



## 1838-D



Ill. is A-U. Usually  
82:1938 Unc., \$8,250.00.

VF to EF, very rare

Unc.. Auction



Ill. is B1.

Heavier impression.

Annot. bottom of page in blue graphite pencil: 1 D \_ 3 & space left; bases 183 recut. Rev.: No berry, stems thin; U low; first S very close to border. Crack tops MERICA; triangular (right triangle) chip in field below beak. LM.

For additional information see WB's original ms. in Bibliography below.  
P.T.A. Breen 2 6/75:386 'sharp BU' details in Bib. below; lot 387 also.

Center of 8 thick. Rep. unchecked dates. McC 1-A.

**HALF EAGLE. Rev. Regular die of 1838-40 with small letters, white metal.**

Walter Breen's annotated Judd 3rd, above.  
1838-C numbers struck & dates struck see 1839-C.

Byron Reed collection, NB 97:51: 1838 \$5 **Proof**.

Detailed description see Bib. below for WB's G.E.N.A. P.T.A. 11/1975:1501.

RitA: 20583: \$5 "no other coins struck at this Ov."

One known with scratch on cheek, damage to lower obv. rim.

P129

to official monthly reports and correspondence between the superintendent of the Charlotte Branch and the director in Philadelphia, 10,959 struck in 1838, plus 6,2<sup>20</sup>~~32~~ struck from 1838 dies in 1839 before the 1839 C dies had arrived from Philadelphia, total 17,1<sup>72</sup>~~31~~. There were apparently two pairs of dies sent and ~~one~~<sup>both</sup> are now identifiable. These dies were not defaced until late in 1843, but apparently no later strikings were made from them & (i.e. after 1839) because both reverses had broken.

Preparations began in the site which became the Charlotte Mint as early as 1836, and operations began in December 1837, but no gold was delivered until early in 1838.

Heads on these coins are similar to those in 1838 Philadelphia half-eagles; differences are minimal. Mintmark is above date, mostly above 83.

1. Quickly identifiable by some stage of break from rim to ~~in~~ leaves, eagle's leg at left, across shield, eagle's neck and to upper edge of wing at right, to border. A specimen was pictured on page 76 of the Dec. 2, 1964 Coin World; this one then belonged to one Hank Williams. A similar piece, uncirculated, was ~~Gaylord~~ 325. <sup>Obs. small c above 3 and space left.</sup> I have seen others.

2. Similar. Break runs ~~xxx~~ from rim splitting U, to eagle, shield, and rim near right wing. A Col. Green coin was pictured at C.M. Hall 1964. Cf. also Melish 1982. Also comes with perfect dies.

#### 1 8 3 8 D

Mintage reported as 20,583, from two pairs of dies. Coinage began in February 1838. Types as preceding. Very small D above 3. Variations are minimal. George Gozan has, or at least did have, the finest uncirculated specimen I ever saw.

Though dies were sent to New Orleans for gold coinage, none ensued in 1838/1839.

1. D no 3 & space 1. Green 183 mint. By N. Key, then then; U. L. 183 5 re border.  
ck for MEXICO; chip in fld below break in



1-A  
 2-B  
 3-C  
 4-D  
 5-E  
 6-F  
 7-G  
 8-H  
 9-I  
 10-J  
 11-K  
 12-L  
 13-M  
 14-N  
 15-O  
 16-P  
 17-Q  
 18-R  
 19-S  
 20-T  
 21-U  
 22-V  
 23-W  
 24-X  
 25-Y  
 26-Z  
 27-AA  
 28-AB  
 29-AC  
 30-AD  
 31-AE  
 32-AF  
 33-AG  
 34-AH  
 35-AI  
 36-AJ  
 37-AK  
 38-AL  
 39-AM  
 40-AN  
 41-AO  
 42-AP  
 43-AQ  
 44-AR  
 45-AS  
 46-AT  
 47-AU  
 48-AV  
 49-AW  
 50-AX  
 51-AY  
 52-AZ  
 53-BA  
 54-BB  
 55-BC  
 56-BD  
 57-BE  
 58-BF  
 59-BG  
 60-BH  
 61-BI  
 62-BJ  
 63-BK  
 64-BL  
 65-BM  
 66-BN  
 67-BO  
 68-BP  
 69-BQ  
 70-BR  
 71-BS  
 72-BT  
 73-BU  
 74-BV  
 75-BW  
 76-BX  
 77-BY  
 78-BZ  
 79-CA  
 80-CB  
 81-CC  
 82-CD  
 83-CE  
 84-CF  
 85-CG  
 86-CH  
 87-CI  
 88-CJ  
 89-CK  
 90-CL  
 91-CM  
 92-CN  
 93-CO  
 94-CP  
 95-CQ  
 96-CR  
 97-CS  
 98-CT  
 99-CU  
 100-CV

NB 100:171-2 right. Die parings.

NB 43:2 1838-D \$5 1/26/38 one pair  
chromed Institutional pending.  
 [80] \$5 one to Patterson (is this in  
 [20,538].

tested  
 4/17/38  
 S . I . ? )

Reworded another document: Only one pair of dies used, 2nd rusted unused.  
 Dies from Coiner David H. Mason, brought from Phila. Jan. 26, 1838. First  
 delivery [80], April 26, 1838; a specimen went to Mint Director  
 R.M.Patterson.

NB43:3 2 obv. 2 rev. sent 1/4, rec'd 1/26.

1838 5 (P) 90 (P)

Compare Harry Bass Collection below. **Annotation.** WB.

## Smithson's bequest.

Find the info. & add it here.

Add text from Ency p. 527 paragraph 2 here.

Ency p. 528 bottom: 1838-9 4c partly struck pm. Smithson bequest. See Margin p. 548. Margin p. 548 says see p. (\$10) 1838 C p. 492.

Ency p.529 bottom margin: Smithson Bequest arrived 8/29/1838; coined into \$5.00 at Philadelphia.

Contact SI for more info, when writing include what I now know.

<<<<<<<<<<<complete this>>>>>>>>>>>>



## Abbreviations

Breen Adams Clapp : get exact titles>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>B-1, 1-A, C-1

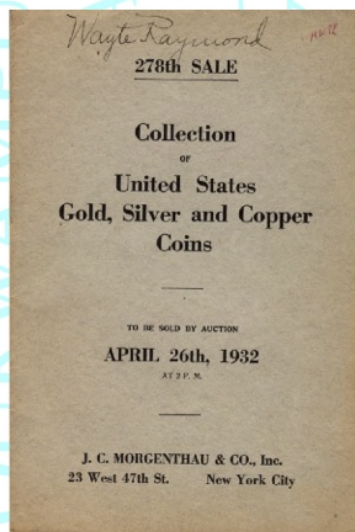
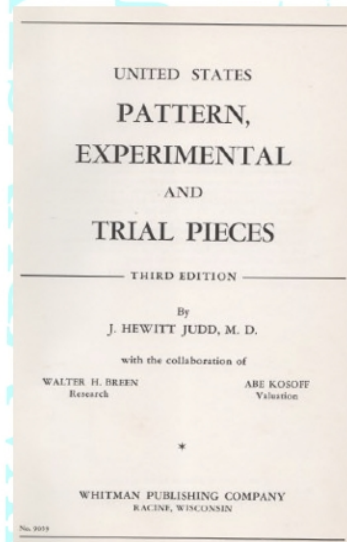
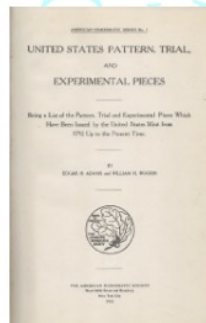
RWJ: R.W. Julian.

XIMP: extremely important.

## Bibliography & important catalogs.

See complete Gold Bibliography.

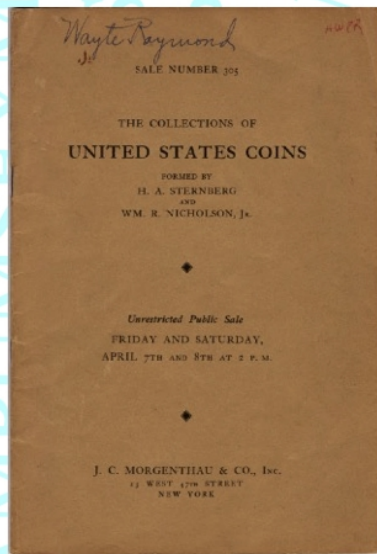
Walter Breen archival notations includes personal inspection of Garrett collection, also Strauss coll., others, in NB's, various ms', misc. notes & photos gifted to Bruce Vogel, then Seymour Wampum. See introduction for Breen's basic research sources.



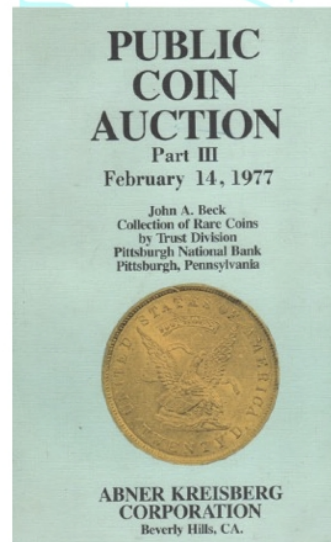
| HALF EAGLES. |     |                    |                                       |
|--------------|-----|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 27-          | 172 | 1795 Close date.   | Very Fine, proof surface. Rare.       |
| 1425         | 173 | 1798 Large date.   | Very Fine.                            |
| 8-           | 174 | 1800 Fine.         | Scarce.                               |
| 8-           | 175 | 1802 over 1.       | Ex. Fine.                             |
| 8-           | 176 | 1803 over 2.       | Very Fine.                            |
| 8-           | 177 | 1805               | Ex. Fine.                             |
| 810          | 178 | 1807 Bust to Left. | Very Fine.                            |
| 815          | 179 | 1808 Ex. Fine.     | Scarce.                               |
| 810          | 180 | 1810 Small Date.   | Ex. Fine.                             |
| 8-           | 181 | 1811 Small 5D.     | Ex. Fine.                             |
| 830          | 182 | 1813 Ex. Fine.     |                                       |
| 2025         | 183 | 1814 Very Fine.    | Rare.                                 |
| 10-          | 184 | 1818 Very Fine.    | Reverse damaged by mounting. V. Rare. |

J.C. Morgenthau & Co. 278th sale. Wayte Raymond's copy.

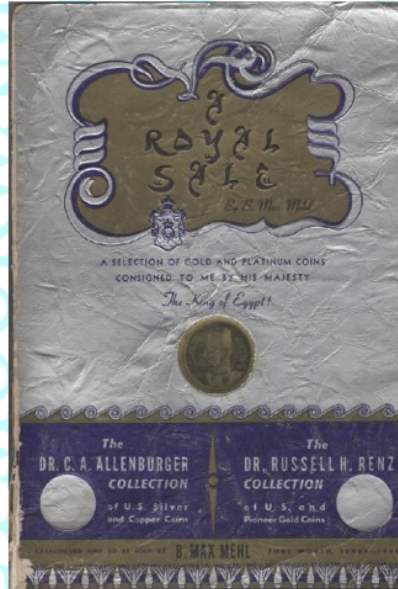




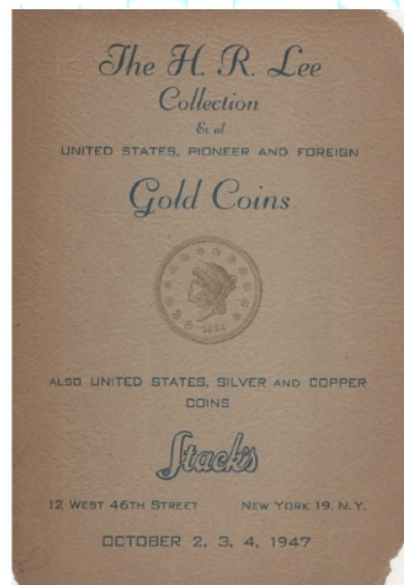
W.Raymond's copy JCM #305.



PCA III "Beck" 2/14/77. Walter Breen's annotated copy.

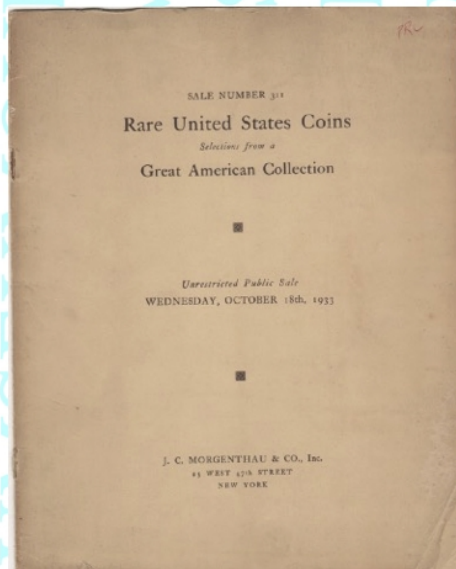


BMM 3/23/1948. Herein BMM 3/23/48: \_.

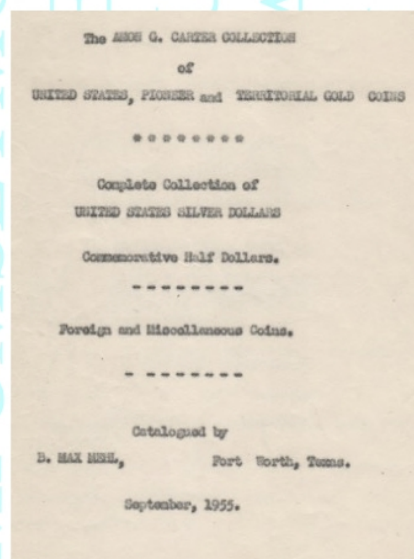


Herein cited: "H.R. Lee" S 10/47: \_.



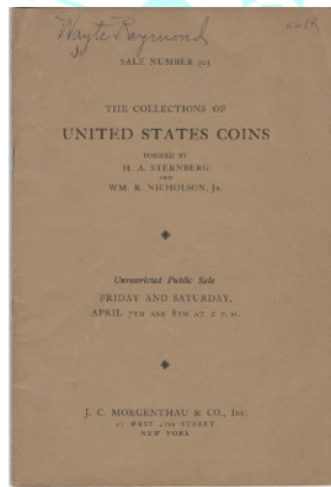


Herein cited: JCM#311, 10/18/33:\_. This is W. Raymond's copy (cataloguer) to WB.

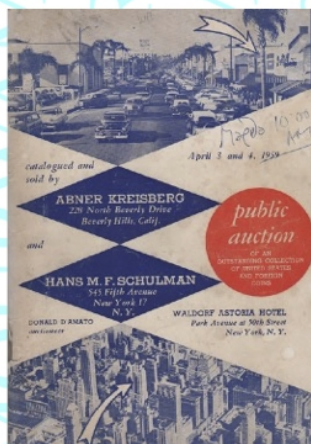


BMM A.Carter 9/55:\_.

JCM #305, Ex. W.  
Raymond, W.Breen.



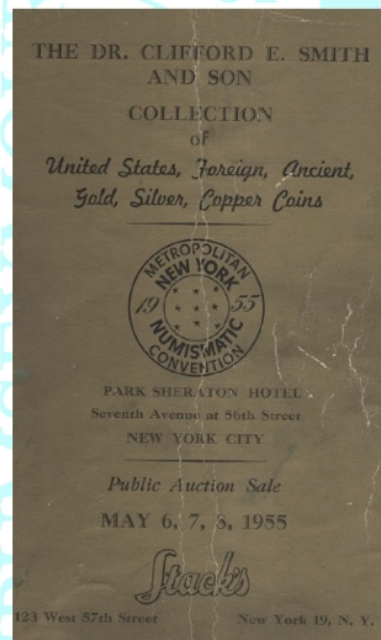




| HALF EAGLES — EAGLES |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 2651                 | 1806 Round top 6. Very Fine (85.00) ✓  |
| 2652                 | 1807 Bust left. Choice Extremely Fine (95.00) ✓                              |
| 2653                 | 1812 Last year of type. Just a shade from Uncirculated (100.00) + (wed. str) |
| 2654                 | 1813 Choice Uncirculated. Mint bloom (150.00) ✓                              |
| 2655                 | 1814 Choice Uncirculated. Scarce type (225.00) ✓                             |
| 2656                 | 1830 Large 5D. Choice about uncirculated. Rare (450.00) PLATE —              |
| 2657                 | 1839 New type. Brilliant Uncirculated. Scarce (40.00) ✓                      |
| 2658                 | 1839-C Mint mark on obverse. C. (40.00) ✓                                    |

WB's KS 4/3-4/59: \_.

WB's S Smith 5/55: \_ . Below & right.



|      |      |                               |   |
|------|------|-------------------------------|---|
| 1668 | 1805 | Extremely Fine                |   |
| 1669 | 1806 | Pointed 6. Very Fine          | <i>nice</i>                               |
| 1670 | 1807 | Turban head left. Very Fine   | <i>SD</i>                                 |
| 1671 | 1808 | Extremely Fine                | <i>~</i>                                  |
| 1672 | 1809 | Uncirculated. Choice          | <i>✓</i>                                  |
| 1673 | 1809 | Very Fine                     | <i>-</i>                                  |
| 1674 | 1810 | Small date. Tall 5. Very Fine | <i>this genuine! Looks like cast. 35.</i> |



- 1675 1810 Large date. Large 5. Uncirculated  
 1676 1811 About Uncirculated  
 1677 1812 ~~Uncirculated~~ Choice *alt GF*  
 1678 1813 Has some pin point nicks on face. Extremely Fine  
 1679 1814 ~~A Choice Very Fine~~ *infer 90-*

### THE EXCESSIVELY RARE 1815 HALF EAGLE

- ✓ 1680 1815 One of the outstanding rarities in the United States Gold Series. This is one of the Finest ever offered for sale. This was originally the Davis Graves Specimen and sold for \$3750. ~~A Perfect Gem~~. Should surpass it today. **PLATE**  
*3500 4750.*  
 1681 1818 Has been plugged between 8 & 9th Star. Very Fine

### THE EXCEEDINGLY RARE 1819 HALF EAGLE

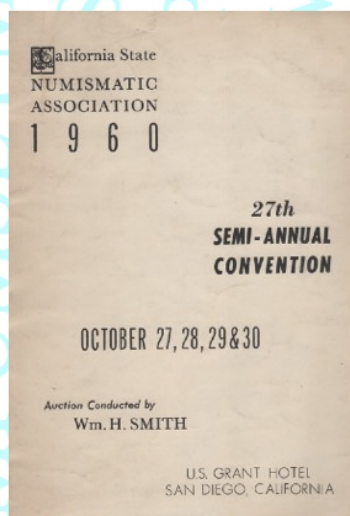
- 1682 1819 Small perfect Stars. Gem with full mint lustre, undoubtedly the Finest known. Classed as Rare as the 1815. The Davis Graves specimen, \$2400 was paid. Would not surprise us if it exceeds the 1815 in price. Exceedingly Rare. **PLATE**  
*2750 3500 (not D/O)*  
 1683 1820 Square base 2. ~~Uncirculated with Proof like Surface~~. Choice. **PLATE**  
*(letter ~ 2) 450 EF AU*  
 1684 1821 Another ~~Uncirculated~~ piece, very rarely seen lacking in most of the large collections. There was none in the Davis Graves. Very Rare. **PLATE  
*325 AC Dec*  
 1685 1823 Another ~~Uncirculated Gem~~. Full Stars. Proof Surface. **PLATE**  
*350 700*  
 1686 1824 A Perfect Gem, in strike as well as in condition. Uncirculated. Rare. **PLATE** *at WSC*  
 1687 1825 over 21. About ~~Uncirculated~~. Has most of lustre adhering with some slight patina around the borders. **PLATE** *edge dent was 1st*  
 1688 1826 A Choice Gem in Uncirculated condition. Full lustre. Sharp Stars. Very Rare. **PLATE**  
*900 600***

### THE EXCESSIVELY RARE 1827 HALF EAGLE

- 1689 1827 AN UNCIRCULATED GEM from the Colonel Green Collection and sold to the King Farouk. This coin should be rated in the 1815 and 1819 class. The Davis Graves specimen sold for \$2200. Excessively Rare. **PLATE**  
*1850 2400*  
 1690 1828 over 27 Another Outstanding rarity. Also from the Farouk Sale. An Uncirculated coin. Excessively Rare. **PLATE**  
*2150 2700*

### THE EXCEEDINGLY RARE 1829 LARGE DATE HALF EAGLE

- 1691 1829 Large date. This is the famous Colonel Green specimen which we sold to King Farouk in 1943 and bought by Doctor Smith at the recent auction Sale in Cairo. In the Colonel Green Collection there was only this specimen. Of the 3 that are known to exist; one is in the Eliasberg Collection (which we sold to him), and the other is in the Byron Reed Collection. There is no Auction record known to us, and not one has been sold in many many years. We put this coin in the same category as the 1822, and it is the only one available today. Can be called almost Unique. Brilliant Uncirculated and Exceedingly Rare. **PLATE**  
*just alt 4000 10,000 book 11,000 floor*  
 1692 1830 Variety with the small 5. Choice. ~~Very~~ Fine. **PLATE**  
*150 250 VF*  
 1693 1831 ~~Uncirculated~~, has some little fine nicks in face. **PLATE**  
 1694 1832 13 Stars. Brilliant Uncirculated. Very much Underrated. Rare. **PLATE**  
 1695 1833 ~~Very Fine~~. **PLATE** *25-110 650 book*  
 1696 1834 New type. No motto. Very Fine  
 1697 1835 Very Fine  
 1698 1836 Very Fine *hg*  
 1699 1836 Extremely Fine  
 1700 1837 Extremely Fine  
 1701 1838 Very Fine *mint.*



| FIVE DOLLAR GOLD PIECES |   |        |
|-------------------------|---|--------|
| 875                     | 1795 Liberty Cap with Small Eagle on Reverse. First Year and First Type of issue. A Very Fine well struck coin! Free of rim nicks and scratches but with several small indentations on the Head and Cap, probably caused from contact with other coins many years ago. Reverse nice and sharp but shows a sign under olive wreath of having some scratch or initial removed years ago. Still a very attractive and desirable type specimen! Will probably realize ..... | 500.00 |
| *****                   |   |        |
| 876                     | 1800 Liberty Cap. Strictly Very Fine Obverse and Reverse! Variety with die breaks on upper and lower left of Reverse. A nice sharp specimen with small edge nick below date. A nice type set coin. Worth .....  | 140.00 |
| *****                   |   |        |
| 877                     | 1810 <del>Small</del> Date with Tall Five - Bust type with Turban Cap. Extremely Fine.. SCARCE! Worth .....   | 145.00 |
| *****                   |   |        |
| 878                     | 1813 New Type with Large Head and Turban Cap. Extremely Fine - Worth .....  | 150.00 |
| *****                   |   |        |
| 879                     | 1830 Liberty Head - No Motto - Extremely Fine.....  | 35.00  |
| 880                     | 1841 P. Liberty Head - About Uncirculated .....   |        |

WB's annotated copy CSNA 10/1960 above.



SEYMOURWAMPUMSEYMOURWAM  
PUMSEYMOURWAMPUMSEYMOUR  
WAMPUMSEYMOURWAMPUMSEYM  
OURWAMPUMSEYMOURWAMPUMS  
EYMOURWAMPUMSEYMOURWAMP  
UMSEYMOURWAMPUMSEYMOURW  
AMPUMSEYMOURWAMPUMSEYMO  
URWAMPUMSEYMOURWAMPUMSE  
YMOURWAMPUMSEYMOURWAMPU  
MSEYMOURWAMPUMSEYMOURWA

Am Kapiti gilt many A patterns in 1950s  
Hol Weber (Hol + Holendather) in MD.  
gilt regular gold to improve its appearance.  
Besten up N or mode.

NB 81:3.

**Warning: Gilt pieces to improve appearance.**

**NB:WBV#17p46 C Mint Assay record**

<<<<<confirm the 1838's are of this type>>>>>>>>>>.

If so add this to ToC



10/5/31 C Assay 5 2 1  
L 5 5 2 1  
10/16 2524 4  
11/5 2244 4  
8 4  
12/31 40  
1839  
2/19 2204 4  
3/16 5892 12  
4/2 1944 4  
16 2084 4  
5/16 4868 8  
6/17 1172 2  
7/10 2545 5  
30 1612 2 4  
9/11 2704 4  
21 2464 4  
10/7 1533 3  
21 3507 7  
12/9 3336 6  
30 2160 4  
31 1071 2  
3/9 1970  
4/15 2210  
5/25 2560  
6/22 3530  
7/22 1980  
8/17 1952  
9/2 3390  
15 1820  
10/17 2206  
11/18 2303  
12/7 4250  
30 1991  
31 1652 36 16  
(To Ch. Co.)  
7/31 5642 No mention of assay pieces 1849  
8/6 5992 1849 ONLY  
2/? 7435 1853 1/2 ONLY  
1 4080 1854 1/2 ONLY









1838-9, 1840, 1842  
1861, 1854, 1838-9  
A removed to Assay, 1838-9  
to Gold Company; A to College  
to Ch. Co. ( )  
2/5/42 3229 221 covered out 1842  
2/25 2555  
3/22 2040 SD 4595  
4/27 1640 LD 2287  
5/7 3294  
18 2368  
6/7 3738  
6/18 2536  
7/16 1732  
8/10 2105  
9/3 2924  
10/11 1844  
11/9 2326  
12/16 2700  
12/31 2294 48 8  
2/4 2333 1843  
3/3 1811  
13 1984  
4/7 2026  
17 1826  
28 2988  
5/5 2366  
16 2825  
31 2197  
6/19 2819  
30 5736  
7/25 6570  
8/3 2089  
21 2109  
25 2558  
9/7 2697  
28 2468  
10/5 3435  
24 2655  
11/9 2934  
16 1959  
25 1897  
12/8 2144  
23 2639  
30 5246  
76 32

2/6 1700  
3/6 2248  
4/6 2044  
5/6 5992  
In Corner's Hand  
943.400 02.  
5th A to imp.  
17,551.63  
5/6 887  
9/6  
630  
11 13  
LD 8681  
26064  
1738  
76 32

979700  
 904505  
 1884285  
 24  
 1021.2000  
 1884285  
 42542  
 1841743  
 24  
 4254  
 1021.2000  
 61  
 98  
 130  
 120  
 91  
 70



# Walter Breen's annotated The Standard Catalogue of United States Coins From 1616 to the Present Day {1957}.

| UNITED STATES GOLD COINS   |                     |
|--|---------------------|
|     |                     |
| 1797 15 stars. Small eagle   | V. Fine 400.00      |
|    |                     |
| 1797 16 stars. Small eagle   | 400.00              |
|   |                     |
| 1798 Small eagle   | 5 or 6 known        |
| 1798 Large heraldic eagle  | 62.50               |
| 1798 Same. Rev. 14 stars   | 200.00              |
| 1799   | 7451 80.00+         |
|   |                     |
| 1800 over 1  | 53176 60.00         |
| 1802 over 2  | 3220 55.00          |
| 1803 Small 8   | 32475 55.00         |
| 1804 Large 8   | 65.00               |
| 1805   | 23183 60.00         |
| 1806 Round topped 6  | 54417 55.00         |
| 1806 Pointed 6   | 2526 65.00          |
| 1807   | 33496 60.00+        |
|    |                     |
| 1807 Head in round cap   | 50527 65.00         |
| 1808 over 7  | 55573 70.00         |
| 1808   | 60.00               |
| 1809 over 8  | 33825 55.00         |
| 1810 Large date  | 106257 65.00        |
| 1810 Small date, tall 5  | 70.00               |
| 1810 Small date, small 5   | 75.00 950           |
| 1811 Large 5   | 99531 65.00         |
| 1811 Small 5   | 65.00               |
| 1812   | 58227 55.00         |
|  |                     |
| 1813   | 95428 85.00         |
| 1814 over 13   | 15454 100.00        |
|  |                     |
| 1815 (635)   | 7 or 8 known        |
| 1818   | 45538 90.00         |
|  |                     |
| 1819   | 51723 9 or 10 known |
| 1820 Curled 2, small letters   | 225.00              |
| 1820 Curled 2, large letters   | 250.00              |
| 1820 Square based 2  | 200.00              |

# UNITED STATES GOLD COINS



1821 34641 Very Fine 600.00



1822 17796 3 known  
1823 14485 150.00  
1824 17340 7 or 8 known  
1825 over 21 } 29060 400.00  
1825 over 24 } Possibly unique  
1826 18269 275.00  
1827 24213 1,000.00  
1828 over 27 } 12299 8 or 9 known  
1828 18730 6 or 7 known



1829 Large date 41516 5 or 6 known



By Wm. Kneass  
1829 Small date, type of 1830. Ex. rare  
1830 Large 5 D } 12435 250.00  
1830 Small 5 D } 200.00  
1831 140594 300.00



MR 157487 Very Fine  
1832 Curled 2, 12 stars 5 known



1832 Square 2, 13 stars 8 or 9 known  
1833 17439 200.00  
1834 Plain 4 } 24709 200.00  
1834 Crosslet 4 } 225.00



New type. No motto  
1834 Plain 4 } 1652928 16.50  
1834 Crosslet 4 } 125.00  
1835 271574 17.50  
1836 253147 15.00  
1837 207121 17.50  
1838 286178 17.50  
1838 C 12959 45.00  
1838 D 20583 55.00



By C. Gobrecht  
Liberty head with coronet. Smaller eagle  
1839 over 8 11843 25.00  
1839 C 22425 - 22413 35.00  
1839 D 18919 40.00  
1840 137782 25.00  
1840 C 13922 30.00  
1840 D 22826 32.50  
1840 O 32702 22.50



## UNITED STATES GOLD COINS

The first issues of these conformed exactly to the specifications of the Mint Act of April 1792, as did their silver counterparts. None bore any mark of denomination before 1807. These, like most of the earliest Mint issues, have their classical counterpart as far as design is concerned. The verification for this has been recently found in an unexpected quarter. The reverse of the eagle and half-eagle of 1795 shows a naturalistic eagle standing on a palm branch and holding a wreath of laurel in his beak; the original of this design is a Roman (First Century B.C., matching the famous Gemma Augustea) onyx cameo, No. 166 in the Vienna Collections, No. 4 in Eichler-Kris's catalogue of the antique cameos in the Kunsthistorisches Museum at Vienna. This shows the eagle standing to right, but in attributes and workmanship bears a remarkable resemblance to the 1795 die. Later gold dies are less imaginative, simply following the model of the silver coins almost exactly.

Coinage was very limited in the early years for all denominations except half-eagles. No eagles were coined between 1805 and 1837 inclusive, apparently because of exportation. Quarter-eagles were coined only in small quantities at infrequent intervals, on demand. Even the half-eagles, which for long constituted the Mint's major output along with silver half-dollars and copper cents, belie their coinage records in that many dates are extremely rare. The explanation for all this is believed to lie in the fact that many millions of dollars in pre-1834 gold were returned to the Mint after that time and recoined, being worth more than face value. \$100 face in old-style gold was worth over \$106 in new style gold, and unworn specimens in the aggregate would exceed this premium.

Proof gold coinage began around 1821, that being with one exception the earliest date we find. The Mint Cabinet contains both the \$5 and \$2.50 of this year in proof, also 1824 and most later dates except 1849-53 inclusive. The exception mentioned is the 1804 eagle with plain 4 in date, and otherwise differing considerably from the single variety of the regular issue. There are two proofs in gold of this and about five in silver (AW23); no record of them exists before 1869, and as early as 1911 the opinion was voiced that these are restrikes. No real proofs could have been made before 1817, that being the year in which the Mint acquired its hydraulic press and struck off the first proof cents and half-dollars. Of proof gold the majority of issues before 1880 are very rare; some issues, such as the 1841 quarter-eagle, 1863 quarter-eagle, 1883-4 double eagles, and the well-known three-dollar pieces, are found only in proof or impaired proof condition.

The 1848 quarter-eagles with CAL over the eagle are properly experimental pieces. The alloy is not that authorized by the Government. The U.S. standard since 1837 was (per thousand) 900 parts gold, 33 to 50 parts silver, 67 to 50 parts copper. The alloy of California gold, and thus of these quarter-eagles, is approximately 888 parts gold to 108 parts silver to 4 parts of various other metals. It is easily distinguishable by its brassy color. The CAL stamped on the quarter-eagles was evidently done while each coin was in the die, as Proskey says; the letters were put in with a punch, and were stamped in by hand, as their placement differs somewhat on different coins. One or two are reported in brilliant proof condition.

This is not the only instance of unconventional gold alloys being used by the Mint, for experimental purposes. In the early thirties the Director submitted to a Congressional committee a half-dozen pieces of the same \$2.50 denomination, struck in (1) pure gold, (2) 900 gold 100 silver, (3) 900 gold 100 copper, (4) 900 gold 33 silver 67 copper, (5) 900 gold 50 silver 50 copper, (6) 900 gold 67 silver 33 copper. These pieces were marked above the eagle by small punch-marks. The idea was for the Congressmen to decide among them and to authorize a mixture of silver and copper to be used in the alloy of gold coins to give them a good color. This was authorized in Section 8 of the Mint Act of 1837, some five years after the experiments took place.

A similar experimental alloy was used in the 1836 pattern gold dollars by Gobrecht. A few of these were struck in gold with silver alloy, and some more were made in the standard gold (AW50). Though Archives records are lacking, it would seem that these coins and this denomination were intended for the con-



## UNITED STATES GOLD COINS

sideration of Congressional committees who were then preparing the Mint Act of January 1837, mentioned above. This denomination was the first one authorized beyond the original three of the 1792 Mint Act, in any event. Longacre's designs were accepted, however, instead of the Mint's using the Gobrecht dies which were already at hand. (The Coiner used them to make a three-cent silver pattern in 1850.)

For the various types of heads on the 1849 gold dollars, see under "Notes."

The first gold dollars coined in 1873 (both Unc. and Proofs) have an almost closed 3 resembling an 8 and they have sometimes been mistakenly sold as 1878's. The Coiner complained to the Director about the closed 3 and subsequent dies have a more conventional open 3. The closed type is about six times as scarce as the open 3.

Many brass counterfeits (and some in other metals) of the gold dollars, and quite a number of \$2½ and \$5 in other metals including silver, are found and offered as "trial pieces". Several of these are listed in Adams-Woodin, and bear dates between about 1843 and 1861. No alleged trialpiece should be accepted unless in proof condition and unless the die work matches the genuine perfectly.

The other denomination authorized at the same time as the gold dollar, namely the double eagle, has an extremely complicated and interesting history, which we can only briefly allude to here. The first dies Longacre made were disapproved by the Coiner as being of too high relief; the first trials were made Dec. 22, 1849, upon which occasion the dies are said to have broken. Longacre then prepared, with the help of an unnamed engraver from New York, a second and third set of master dies. The first trials in base metal were taken January 12, 1850, and the first few gold (and one silver) strikes January 26, 1850; the same complaint was revived, and these dies (undated) were not used for the authorized coinage beginning in March 1850, but the third set was. By this time Longacre was at his wit's end. The preceding January, on account of much public reproach at not obtaining the double-eagles, Longacre was threatened with the loss of his job; C. C. Wright had already been approached for the Engravership and had accepted. Longacre retained his post only by rushing to Washington and enlisting some political assistance. By 1854 the whole incident ended with the Coiner's dismissal. One mystery is: what happened to the other 1849 double-eagles besides the Mint specimen? One was sent to the Secretary of the Treasury, and several were retained by the Director and the Coiner. Moreover, the Mint specimen was not from the first die, as it is not in high relief and will stack perfectly, which was the complaint against Longacre's first two attempts: they would not. Thus either the Coiner was lying, or the '1849' was made in 1850.

In 1861 a reverse die made by A. C. Paquet was accepted for regular use on the double eagle. Its distinctive feature is tall narrow lettering. The die is found on two coins from the Philadelphia mint (and on a few patterns dated 1859-60) and on a few S mint examples. The die was found unsuitable after these coins had been struck at Philadelphia and the Director sent orders to the branch mints countermanding its use. This order did not reach the San Francisco mint until after 19,250 pieces had been struck and released.

The other new denomination, rivaling the half-eagles of the 1820's and the double-eagles of the 1880's for the number of rarities, is the three-dollar piece. Fifteen proofs of the design later adopted were struck in April 1854 for presentation purposes. All the coins of 1854 and no later ones have small letters in DOLLAR. Proofs exist of all years through 1889, and at least two dates (1873 and 1875) were certainly restruck, accounting for the sizable excess of number extant over number originally struck and reported.

There are, unfortunately, no references at present which give much useful information, either on die varieties or anything else, for the gold coinages. Adams published a very incomplete list of die varieties of the eagles and half-eagles 1795-1804 in the 1934 Coin Collector's Journal, but many more varieties than he knew of have been recorded.



## NOTES ON UNITED STATES GOLD COINS

### NOTES ON UNITED STATES GOLD COINS

Where an unusually small coinage occurs we have placed the number in brackets after the date. Early dates 1795-1834 are quoted only in very fine condition. Worn specimens sell for less and really uncirculated pieces bring a great deal more.

#### Gold Dollars



1849 Type I. Small head, without L on truncation. Open wreath. Coronet point midway between two stars. Very rare.

1849 Type II. Small head, with L on truncation. Open wreath. Head placed as last. Scarce.

1849 Type III. Large head, with L on truncation. Open wreath. Coronet point nearer star immediately right of it. Common.

1849 Type IV. Large head as last. Closed wreath (see below). Common. Also known with a recut date.

1849. Open and closed wreath. The first issues of this year have a wreath with branches spread wide. In the latter part of the year the type shows the branches lengthened, drawn up to the top close to figure.

The record of four gold dollars coined at Charlotte in 1854 actually covers assay pieces of 1853 discovered to have been lost in transit to Philadelphia for the meeting of the Assay Commission in February 1854.

1855 C, D, O. The 8 in date is very weak and barely shows on any of these pieces. The 1855 D is the poorest struck.

1861 D. The entire issue of this date was struck by the Confederacy from United States dies. Unfortunately the account books of the Dahlonega Mint are not available so that the amount coined cannot be determined.

#### Quarter Eagles

1806 over 4, 6 over 5. The 1806 over 4 has five stars facing Liberty. The other variety has six stars facing.

1808. The bust on this coin is a copy of that on the Half Eagles, 1807-12.

1834 Motto over eagle. One of the great rarities. Probably not over a dozen are known.

1841. All known are proofs or impaired proofs.

1845 O. The 4000 specimens struck were actually coined in January 1846 before the 1846-dated dies had arrived, and had formerly been included under 1846 in the mint records.

#### Three Dollar Pieces

1854. The first year of issue has small letters in DOLLAR. 1855 and all following years show these letters larger.

The mint records were formerly thought to be confused on the numbers struck of 1873 and 1875. It is a fact that 1873 is far commoner than the mint records indicate, and that over 30 specimens exist of 1875, but this has been established to be a result of restriking.

1856 S. Large and small mint mark S of which the smaller is much the scarcest.

1870 S. Only two specimens were struck. One was put into the cornerstone of the new San Francisco Mint building, the other remains in a private collection.

## NOTES ON UNITED STATES GOLD COINS

### Half Eagles

The many great rarities in this series would make a story by themselves. Only a very small number of specimens are known of such dates as 1798 small eagle, 1815, 1819, 1821, 1822, 1824, 1827-8-9, 1832.

1795 Heraldic eagle. This coin is believed to have been an unintentional restrike, made in 1797 or 1798. The number of stars above the eagle proves that this could not have preceded the admission of Tennessee in June 1796.

1822. Only three specimens are known of this coin, one being in the U.S. Mint collection.

1825 over 4. The only one yet traced is the brilliant proof in the Eliasberg collection.

1832. Curled 2, 12 stars. ~~One of the rarest coins.~~ The editor knows of only five pieces, two of which are in museums.

1841 O. Only two reported, only one seen (Col. Green, Farouk). Reverse of 1840 O.

1916. We have seen one or two coins of this date evidently of the Philadelphia mint but are not convinced they are not S mint coins poorly struck so that S does not show.

### Eagles

The demand for the first types 1795 to 1804 continues unabated. Prices seem well stabilized. We have given a valuation on the dates 1838 to 1854 only in very fine condition as uncirculated specimens are rarely met with and those of a lesser grade seldom collected.

1804. Plain 4, proof. See under restrikes.

1907 St. Gaudens. This design has as interesting varieties as the double eagles, the two following really being patterns but generally accepted as part of a collection of eagles. Of the variety with periods and rolled edge only 42 were struck, while the same variety with sharp wire edge is said to have been coined to the extent of 500 pieces. Two of each were melted during Mint experiments.

The St. Gaudens type eagle has 46 stars on edge, 1907-1911. From 1912 to 1933 there are 48 stars.

The 1933 eagle remains a rare piece, even though several new specimens were recently reported discovered.

### Double Eagles

Twenty Dollar pieces of the 19th century are very unusual in really uncirculated condition. These coins were made to use and are usually nicked and scratched by rubbing against one another in bags.

1854. Large date as on the silver dollar. Small date as on the cent.

1861 Paquet reverse. Two struck (Unc., not proof) at Philadelphia, Jan. 5, 1861, at which time the Director discovered that the reverse die was too wide, the borders too narrow. He immediately countermanded any further use of the design.

1861 S. Paquet reverse. There were 19250 of this type struck and released before the order from the Philadelphia Mint belatedly reached San Francisco forbidding the use of this reverse. These coins are now very rare. That they actually circulated is shown from the fact that the first one published (1937) came from a hoard in Hull, Texas.

1907 St. Gaudens. Roman numerals. The wire edge is not an intentional variant, unlike that on the eagles of this date, but instead a result of the collar giving way.

The St. Gaudens type produced in 1907 brought forth a number of interesting varieties including several patterns. Some of the dates after 1916 are of distinct rarity, especially some of the branch mints. All specimens of the 1933 coin have finally been returned to the Treasury Department by the U.S. Secret Service on the ground that they were not legally released by the mint.

The St. Gaudens double-eagle has 46 stars on obverse, 1907-1911. From 1912 to 1933 there are 48 stars on obverse.



*2 subheads*  
*Reho - Do in colored paper.*

# UNITED STATES PROOF COINS

The introduction of this new feature in the catalogue is designed to point up the fact that, like both patterns and commemorative coins, United States proofs from dies of the regular types constitute a distinctive series entirely separate from the regular issue for circulation. Proofs, strictly speaking, are impressions from highly polished dies on polished planchets (except for the period 1908-16 when so-called mat (matte) or sandblast proofs were made, following the fashion introduced by the Paris Mint), never intended as circulating currency. They were 'polished-up portraits' of the coinage types, struck since 1817 for presentation to prominent officials or foreign dignitaries, and since 1858 also for sale to collectors at a premium. Though legal tender, just as are commemoratives, they were never counted as circulating coinage, and this fact is substantiated by the Bullion Journals and other official accounts of Mint coinage transactions. These contemporaneous accounts leave no room for doubt that proofs (at least before 1862-3) were, with the single exception of the Gobrecht Dollars, never included in reported coinage figures. Neither the gold and silver bullion nor copper planchets figured in the records. And after proofs began to be included with regular coinage in the Director's Reports in the sixties, the Coiner's accounts of proofs were still kept and submitted separately, with the medal accounts, to the authorities. This practice is known to have held at least through 1889, and its continuance for so many years strongly emphasizes the fact that proofs definitely form no part of regular coinage, but are a separate series altogether.

Up to the present time, with very few exceptions, the values attached to proof coins have not taken this fact into account. Such values have ordinarily been derived from the largeness or smallness of the regular coinage for circulation, whereas strictly speaking the rarities of uncirculated and of proof coins of the same date and denomination are independent, and the prices consequently should be also. Take for example the three-dollar goldpieces. Because of allegedly small reported coinages, 1873 and 1875-76 bring extremely high prices in proof; while dates such as 1855-6-7 and 1874, which are much more rare as proofs, bring far less simply because of larger quantities of coins reported for circulation. The double eagles in the 1880's are even more to the point. And in many other series proofs are twenty to 100 times commoner than uncirculated examples, particularly in the 1870's and 1880's; for example the three-cent nickels and half dollars between 1882 and 1887. The survival of mint state specimens is largely a matter of good fortune, whereas proofs were struck in fairly large numbers and now turn up frequently—at higher prices than the rarely seen uncirculated examples. We anticipate that this illogical situation will gradually correct itself when the correct relative rarities become known.

For all these reasons and others, it is expected that in future proofs, due to their greatly enhanced value, will be to a greater extent collected as an individual group independent of circulated and uncirculated coins of the same types, just as commemoratives are collected as a series by themselves and not mixed up with half-dollars of regular issue. This manner of collecting becomes more significant when one realizes that the rarities among a series of proofs are entirely different dates and types than the rarities among the corresponding series of coins struck for circulation, and that many dates coined in proof do not exist in specimens struck for circulation, or vice versa. In a set of proof dimes, for instance, the great rarities would be dates like 1820, 1824, 1838, 1841, 1849-53—all of these far from rare in ordinary condition; while dates like 1879-81 are rarely offered in any other condition but proof.

The commonly published statement that proofs were struck only in Philadelphia has a few authentic exceptions. The genuine proofs from the branch mints are separately tabulated. All of them are of extreme rarity.

Although we have a fairly complete account of the dates and denominations of proofs struck between 1817 and 1854, we are not pricing them in the present catalogue for several reasons. First, most of these (except half-cents and silver dollars in the 1840's) are so rare that sales of any particular items do not occur often enough to establish a stable price. Second, the prices they do bring do not

*WHS*  
*minty*  
*scale*

*H.A.*

*What is*  
*a proof*

*how*  
*made?*

*kinds*  
*of*  
*proofs*

*with*  
*one-sided*

*Roman*

*etc.*

*1873-10*  
*1873-10*  
*1873-10*

*Value*

*denom.*  
*condition*

*Proof*

*here (USA)*  
*condition*  
*it's*  
*really*  
*shades*  
*be!*

*Demond*

*the price*  
*of NONPROFS*  
*(officially)*

*Deceptive 'proofs'*  
*misrepresentation*

[ 157 ]

*Why proofs*  
*not separate*  
*from Unco.*

*1797 5¢ R. 1811 1¢ Lc.*  
*proofs - proofs*

## UNITED STATES PROOF COINS

adequately reflect the relative rarities in each series, for the same reasons as were mentioned before in connection with the three-dollar pieces. Third, there still remain some problems connected with restriking in this group. Evidence continues to turn up that many dates and denominations of proofs were restruck in the 1860's, some from the original dies, others from new ones manufactured for the occasion. Obviously these belong neither here nor among the regular issues, but instead in the section devoted to restrikes.

With regard to early proofs, it is true that we find specimens of the silver coinage of 1796, and of some other issues of the period, with brilliant prooflike surfaces. Nevertheless, proofs in the true sense of the word were not struck until 1817. Facilities for their manufacture came to the Mint as part of the general renovation and improvement of machinery following the Mint fire of 1816, and in the next year some cents and half-dollars were struck in proof. For the twenty- or thirty-odd years following 1817, so far as is known, the Mint struck all or practically all its proofs in sets, and these sets were intended for presentation to visiting politicians and foreign dignitaries, mints or museums. In 1834, for example, the State Department ordered two complete sets of the year to be prepared, put in special caskets and sent to the Imam of Muscat and the King of Siam; and sporadic similar orders—rarely more than two or three per year—followed in subsequent years. The important exceptions to the above statement about proof distribution are the handling of the Gobrecht Dollars, which are really patterns, and the report that Mickley obtained four proof quarter dollars of 1827 from the Mint in that year for face value.

There is no unequivocal record of the Mint's having sold sets or individual proofs to private collectors before 1858. Recipients were charged face value plus \$3 for the casket plus eight cents for proofing—this latter charge was even levied on the Mint Cabinet for proof sets in the 1860's. Both the first public sale of proof sets at a premium (\$3 for the silver-minor set, \$46 for the set with the gold) and the very name of proofs are the work of Col. James Ross Snowden, 1858. The name and the premium (gradually increased) have continued to the present day except for 1917-35 inclusive, 1943-49 inclusive, the only proofs besides patterns struck in those years being 1921 dollars (both types), some commemoratives and a few other items. Minor proof sets or individual coins were nowhere accounted for in the Archives until the beginning of 1878. The conjecture that they had been previously struck to the same number as silver proof sets may be very likely correct; but no evidence exists.

*Italicized values* are due for a sharp rise or fall; *italicized dates* were coined only in proof; *italicized quantities coined* are reconstructions.

The French matte finish, with several minor variations, comes on Lincoln cents 1909-16, Buffalo nickels 1913-16, 1916 new type dime, quarter and half, 1908-12 gold. The sandblast finish comes on gold 1912-16 and 1921-22 Peace dollars as well as most commemoratives, 1921-36. Other coins have brilliant fields and unpolished high surfaces, like the 19th Century proofs. The late proofs since 1936 are almost uniformly mirrorlike.

1873-89  
 ABCR:  
 M matte  
 SB sandblast  
 RG Roman  
 SM semi-matte or satin finish

Ask H.F.  
 to see a  
 finished proof  
 (1950-58)



## Hoard W. Breen NUM 1952.

NUM  
JAN. 1952  
PAGE 7

From THE NUMISMATIST, January 1952  
(Third Annual Heath Literary Awards)

### SURVEY OF AMERICAN COIN HOARDS

By WALTER H. BREEN, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.

#### XVI. The Baltimore Gold Hoard.

In the cellar of the house numbered 132 South Eden St., Baltimore, then owned by Mrs. Elizabeth H. French and Miss Mary P. Findley, there was found on August 31, 1934 a quantity of American goldpieces. The finders were Henry Grob, 15, and Theodore Jones, 16. Initial count made at the time of finding showed that the hoard contained between eleven and twelve thousands of dollars in face value alone.

As one might expect, there followed considerable litigation over title to the gold. Much of this hinged on the time of burial of the coins — all were dated before 1857 — as compared with the time when the ancestors of the then owners of the house had gotten title to that house. During this time (Sept. 1934-May 1935), despite a court order forbidding any sale or redemption of the gold, the relatives of one of the boys sold \$185 worth of it for face value. Nevertheless, when the Second Circuit Court of Baltimore (Eugene O'Dunne, judge) finally awarded the entire hoard to the two boys — over the protests of the two lady owners, who had wanted to settle by giving them 25% — there were, by one newspaper account, 3558 coins with total face value of \$11,425.50.

By Court decision, the coins were auctioned May 2, 1935 in the Lord Baltimore Hotel. Perry W. Fuller was auctioneer; Harry O. Levin, supervising attorney. The printed catalogue shows that the hoard realized \$19,558.75 for the 438 lots. Some of these catalogues are still extant — those I saw are in Baltimore's Enoch Pratt Library. I give a condensed version of the contents:

| Denomination and date | Phila.  | N.O. | S.F. | C. | D. |
|-----------------------|---------|------|------|----|----|
| \$20. 1850            | 92      | 5    |      |    |    |
| 1851                  | 79      | 10   |      |    |    |
| 1852                  | 47      | 2    |      |    |    |
| 1853, 54              | 27, 12  |      |      |    |    |
| 1855                  | 6       |      | 12   |    |    |
| 1856                  | 1       | 1    | 23   |    |    |
| \$10. 1839, 40, 41.   | 2, 1, 1 |      |      |    |    |
| 1842 L.D. and S.D.    | 2       | 1    |      |    |    |
| 1844                  |         | 1    |      |    |    |
| 1845                  | 1       | 1    |      |    |    |
| 1846                  |         | 1    |      |    |    |
| 1847                  | 13      | 7    |      |    |    |
| 1848                  | 5       | 2    |      |    |    |
| 1849                  | 10      | 1    |      |    |    |
| 1850                  | 6       | 2    |      |    |    |
| 1851                  | 1       | 3    |      |    |    |
| 1852                  | 1       |      |      |    |    |
| 1853                  | 4       | 3    |      |    |    |
| 1854                  | 1       |      | 1    |    |    |
| 1855, 56              | 7, 3    |      |      |    |    |
| \$5. 1834, 35         | 15, 2   |      |      |    |    |
| 1836, 37              | 12, 3   |      |      |    |    |
| 1838                  | 6       |      |      | 1  |    |
| 1839, 40              | 1, 8    |      |      |    |    |
| 1841                  | 1       |      |      |    |    |
| 1842                  |         |      |      |    | 1  |
| 1843                  | 12      | 5    |      | 2  | 1  |
| 1844                  | 6       | 6    |      | 2  |    |
| 1845                  | 10      | 3    |      |    |    |
| 1846                  | 4       |      |      | 4  | 1  |
| 1847                  | 20      | 1    |      | 1  | 1  |
| 1848                  | 8       |      |      | 5  | 1  |
| 1849                  | 6       |      |      | 1  | 1  |
| 1850                  | 5       |      |      |    | 2  |
| 1851                  | 13      |      |      |    |    |
| 1852                  | 20      |      |      | 5  | 2  |
| 1853                  | 12      |      |      | 3  | 3  |
| 1854                  | 11      | 1    |      |    | 6  |
| 1855                  | 15      |      |      | 3  | 1  |
| 1856                  | 3       |      |      |    |    |
| \$2.50 1834, 36       | 2, 5    |      |      |    |    |
| 1839                  |         |      |      |    | 1  |
| 1843                  | 1       | 4    |      | 1  |    |
| 1845                  | 2       |      |      |    |    |
| 1847                  |         | 1    |      |    |    |
| 1848                  |         |      |      |    | 1  |
| 1850, 51              | 4, 5    |      |      |    |    |
| 1852, 53              | 11, 14  |      |      |    |    |
| 1854, 55              | 7, 3    |      |      |    |    |
| 1856                  | 4       |      |      |    |    |
| \$1.00 1849, 50       | 95, 78  |      |      |    |    |
| 1851                  | 452     |      |      |    |    |
| 1852                  | 322     |      |      |    |    |



| Denomination and date | Phila.           | N.O. | S.F. | C. | D. |
|-----------------------|------------------|------|------|----|----|
| 1853                  | 976              |      |      |    |    |
| 1854-I, II, 1855      | 215 each         |      |      |    |    |
| 1856                  | 296              |      |      |    |    |
| Various, 1849-56      | 39 Damaged coins |      |      |    |    |

The above account is not completely certain, as the catalogue's listings of gold dollars contain a few ambiguities. All the coins listed above were circulated, most being "very fine."

Some of the prices may also be of interest. The single 1856-O double eagle, "very fine," brought \$105. (It was the highest-priced item in the sale.) The 1849-O eagle, also "very fine," brought \$45. The 1841 half eagle, "fine, scratch on date" — \$26. The 1847-O half eagle, "fine — \$22. Most of the other coins brought less than double face.

By all reasonable criteria, this sale should have ended the affair, and the result should have been merely the enrichment of two underprivileged boys. However, it didn't quite turn out that way. In the very same month that the auction took place, the two boys got together again, and after one told the other that he was "feeling lucky," they went and searched again in that same cellar which had yielded them the original hoard — and dug up between eight and ten thousand dollars more of the same kind of material, after hundreds of other people with shovels had found nothing.

This second hoard likewise became the object of more lawsuits, and again was awarded to the two boys on the assumption that it was part of the original treasure. And while the litigation was going on, a similar clandestine sale took place, this time of \$2500 worth (face value) for \$3005 to one Yale Merrill and his brother — around September 1935. The appeals were finally decided at the end of 1937, upholding the lower court decisions in favor of the two boys. No auction of the second hoard took place, however, and its composition is not definitely known, though it was presumably similar to that of the first.

This hoard unfortunately did the two boys little good, if we may judge by their later histories. Both are now dead, the Grob boy having died in 1937. By 1936 the other one had already been sentenced to the reform school. The only mementoes of the whole episode are the coins, many of which are still owned by local collectors.

Several other accounts exist of coin finds in Maryland between 1924 and 1939, but in no other case is the composition or any other definite information known. Contemporary newspaper accounts are mostly romantic rhapsodies on buried treasure in general, revealing their authors' ignorance of the facts about the hoards at hand.

**Sources:**

1. Perry W. Fuller — Auction catalogue of May 2, 1935.
2. Newspaper clipping file "Treasure Trove," *passim*, in Enoch Pratt Library's Maryland Room.





| Grp# | C# | O/R | Year/MH   | Breed# | Breen Var.  | Bass Variety | Description  | Page |
|------|----|-----|-----------|--------|-------------|--------------|--|------|
| 63   | 1  | 0   | 1818      | -0-    | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  | 8    |
| 63   | 2  | 0   | 1818      | -0-    | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  |      |
| 63   | 3  | R   | 1818      | -0-    | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  |      |
| 64   | 1  | 0   | 1818      | -0-    | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  |      |
| 64   | 2  | R   | 1818      | -0-    | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  |      |
| 64   | 3  | R   | 1818      | -0-    | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  |      |
| 65   | 1  | 0   | 1818      | -0-    | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  |      |
| 65   | 2  | 0   | 1818      | -0-    | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  |      |
| 65   | 3  | R   | 1818      | -0-    | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  |      |
| 66   | 1  | 0   | 1818      | 6473   | Breen 1A.   | 1/1818C      | OBV. Wide date. 1818 evenly spaced. Star 13 barely under edge of largest lower curl. REV. That of 1818 C. Closely spaced 50, 8 over 0.   |      |
| 66   | 2  | R   | 1818      | 6473   | Breen 1A.   | 1/1818C      | OBV. Wide date. 1818 evenly spaced. Star 13 barely under edge of largest lower curl. REV. That of 1818 C. Closely spaced 50, 8 over 0.   |      |
| 66   | 3  | 0   | 1818      | 6471   | -0-         | 2B           | OBV. Close erratic date, numerals akimbo   |      |
| 67   | 1  | 0   | 1820      | -0-    | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  |      |
| 67   | 2  | 0   | 1820      | -0-    | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  |      |
| 67   | 3  | 0   | 1820      | -0-    | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  |      |
| 67   | 4  | 0   | 1820      | -0-    | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  |      |
| 67   | 5  | 0   | 1820      | -0-    | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  |      |
| 67   | 6  | 0   | 1820      | -0-    | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  |      |
| 67   | 7  | R   | 1820      | -0-    | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  |      |
| 67   | 8  | 0   | 1820      | -0-    | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  |      |
| 67   | 9  | 0   | 1820      | -0-    | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  |      |
| 68   | 1  | 0   | 1820      | -0-    | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  |      |
| 69   | 1  | 0   | 1820      | -0-    | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  |      |
| 70   | 1  | 0   | 1820      | -0-    | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  |      |
| 71   | 1  | 0   | 1820      | -0-    | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  |      |
| 72   | 1  | 0   | 1820      | -0-    | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  |      |
| 73   | 1  | 0   | 1820      | -0-    | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  |      |
| 73   | 2  | R   | 1821      | 6479   | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  |      |
| 73   | 3  | 0   | 1821      | 6479   | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  |      |
| 74   | 1  | 0   | 1823      | 6481   | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  |      |
| 74   | 2  | 0   | 1824      | 6482   | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  |      |
| 74   | 3  | R   | 1823      | 6481   | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  |      |
| 75   | 1  | 0   | 1825/1    | 6483   | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  |      |
| 76   | 1  | 0   | 1826      | 6485A  | Breen 1A.   | 1A           | OBV. Belted 8. 13th star under curls, near to 6. Top of 1 above 8. REV. -  |      |
| 76   | 2  | 0   | 1826      | 6485B  | Breen -.    | 2B           | OBV. Belted 8. 13th star at right side of curls, distant from 6. Top of 1 even with 8. REV. Reused in 1827.  |      |
| 76   | 3  | 0   | 1827      | 6486   | Breen 1A.   | 1/1826B      | OBV. Date close. Belted 8. REV. That of 1826 B.  |      |
| 76   | 4  | R   | 1827      | 6486   | -0-         | 1/1826B      | OBV. Date close. Belted 8. REV. That of 1826 B.  |      |
| 77   | 1  | 0   | 1828/7    | 6487   | -0-         | 1/1826B      | OBV. 8 over 1. REV. That of 1826 B. Very small period after D.   |      |
| 77   | 2  | 0   | 1828      | -0-    | -0-         | 2B           | OBV. Normal date.  |      |
| 77   | 3  | 0   | 1828      | -0-    | -0-         | 3B           | OBV. 1 in date very heavy.   |      |
| 77   | 4  | R   | 1828      | -0-    | -0-         | 2B           | OBV. Normal date.  |      |
| 78   | 1  | 0   | 1829 LD   | 6489   | Breen 1A.   | 1A           | One sided proof. OBV. Type I. Large planchet. Large date. 8 is symmetrical. REV.   |      |
| 78   | 2  | R   | 1829      | 6489   | Breen 1A.   | 1A           | OBV. Type I. Large planchet. Large date. 8 is symmetrical.   |      |
| 79   | 1  | 0   | 1829      | 6489   | Breen 2B.   | -0-          | PROOF OBV. Type II. Small planchet. Small date. 8 is symmetrical. REV. Small letters.  |      |
| 79   | 2  | R   | 1829      | 6489   | Breen 2B.   | -0-          | OBV. Type II. Small planchet. Small date. 8 is symmetrical. REV. Small letters.  |      |
| 80   | 1  | 0   | 1830      | -0-    | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  |      |
| 80   | 2  | R   | 1830      | -0-    | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  |      |
| 80   | 3  | R   | 1830      | -0-    | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  |      |
| 81   | 1  | 0   | 1831      | -0-    | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  |      |
| 81   | 2  | 0   | 1831      | -0-    | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  |      |
| 82   | 1  | 0   | 1832      | 6495   | Breen I.    | 1A           | OBV. 12 obverse stars. Curved base 2. REV. As 2A.  |      |
| 82   | 2  | 0   | 1832      | 6495   | Breen II.   | 2A           | OBV. 13 obverse stars. Flat bases 2. REV. As 1A.   |      |
| 83   | 1  | 0   | 1833      | -0-    | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  |      |
| 83   | 2  | R   | 1833      | -0-    | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  |      |
| 84   | 1  | 0   | 1833      | -0-    | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  |      |
| 84   | 2  | R   | 1833      | -0-    | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  |      |
| 85   | 1  | 0   | 1834P4 NM | 6499   | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  |      |
| 85   | 2  | R   | 1834P4 NM | 6499   | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  |      |
| 85   | 3  | 0   | 1834C4 NM | 6500   | -0-         | -0-          | -0-  |      |
| 86   | 1  | 0   | 1834      | 6501A  | Breen II-1. | 1(a)A(b)     | OBV. Belted 8. Truncation markedly curved. Fat 4, centered under curl. No eye - cheek crack. REV. Middle leaves droop. Three long, slender arrowheads. Guide line D - wing. Clashed.   |      |
| 86   | 2  | R   | 1834      | 6501A  | Breen II-1. | 1(a)A(a)     | OBV. Belted 8. Truncation markedly curved. Fat 4, centered under curl. No eye - cheek crack. REV. Middle leaves droop. Three long, slender arrowheads. Guide lines: 5 - leaves, leaves - U, D - wing, wing - S, F - wing, arrow - period. Not clashed. |      |
| 86   | 3  | 0   | 1834      | 6501A  | Breen II-1. | 1(b)A(b)     | OBV. Belted 8. Truncation markedly curved. Fat 4, centered under curl. No eye - cheek crack. Lightly lapped. REV. Middle leaves droop. Three long, slender arrowheads. Guide lines: D - wing, wing - S. Clashed.                                       |      |
| 86   | 4  | R   | 1834      | 6501A  | Breen II-1. | 1(b)A(b)     | OBV. Belted 8. Truncation markedly curved. Fat 4, centered under curl. No eye - cheek crack. Lightly lapped. REV. Middle leaves droop. Three long, slender arrowheads. Guide lines: D - wing, wing - S. Clashed.                                       |      |

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|------|----|-----|---------|--------|--------------|--------------|--|------|
| 86   | 5  | O   | 1834    | 6501A  | Breen II-1.  | 1(c)A(c)     | OBV. Belted 8. Truncation markedly curved. Fat 4, centered under curl. Cracks: eye - cheek, hair - top ribbon end. Lightly lapped. REV. Middle leaves droop. Three long, slender arrowheads. No guide lines. Lapped. Clashing remnant. Crack: left wing tip - edge.  | 9    |
| 86   | 6  | -   | 1834    | 6501A  | Breen II-1.  | 1(c)A(c)     | OBV. Belted 8. Truncation markedly curved. Fat 4, centered under curl. Cracks: eye - cheek, hair - top ribbon end. Lightly lapped. REV. Middle leaves droop. Three long, slender arrowheads. No guide lines. Lapped. Clashing remnant. Crack: left wing tip - edge.  |      |
| 87   | 1  | O   | 1834    | 6502A  | Breen II-88. | 3(c)A(d)     | OBV. Symmetrical 8. Truncation slightly curved. Slender 4, away from curl and a bit left of being centered under curl. 4 triple punched. Lightly lapped. REV. Middle leaves droop. Three long, slender arrowheads. Lapped. Clashing remnant in shield. Cracks: wing tips - edges.  |      |
| 87   | 2  | R   | 1834    | 6502A  | Breen II-88. | 3(c)A(d)     | OBV. Symmetrical 8. Truncation slightly curved. Slender 4, away from curl and a bit left of being centered under curl. 4 triple punched. Lightly lapped. REV. Middle leaves droop. Three long, slender arrowheads. Lapped. Clashing remnant in shield. Cracks: wing tips - edges.  |      |
| 87   | 3  | O   | 1834    | 6502B  | Breen II-6.  | 4(b)B(a)     | OBV. Symmetrical 8. Truncation slightly curved. Slender 4, nearly touching curl. Crack: edge - hair between stars 6 and 7. REV. Middle leaves droop. Top arrowhead long, slender. Period distant from D. Crack: NITED. Berry remnant between top and middle leaf pairs.  |      |
| 87   | 4  | R   | 1834    | 6502B  | Breen II-6.  | 4(b)B(a)     | OBV. Symmetrical 8. Truncation slightly curved. Slender 4, nearly touching curl. Crack: edge - hair between stars 6 and 7. REV. Middle leaves droop. Top arrowhead long, slender. Period distant from D. Crack: NITED. Berry remnant between top and middle leaf pairs.  |      |
| 87   | 5  | O   | 1834    | 6501A  | Breen II-3.  | 1(c)B(b)     | OBV. Belted 8. Truncation markedly curved. Fat 4, centered under curl. Cracks: eye - cheek, hair - top ribbon end. Lightly lapped. REV. Middle leaves droop. Top arrowhead long, slender. Period distant from D. Crack: NITED. Berry remnant between top and middle leaf pairs.  |      |
| 87   | 6  | R   | 1834    | 6502A  | Breen II-9.  | 3(b)B(c)     | OBV. Symmetrical 8. Truncation slightly curved. Slender 4, away from curl and a bit left of being centered under curl. 4 triple punched. Lightly lapped. REV. Middle leaves droop. Top arrowhead long, slender. Period distant from D. Lapped. Crack: edge - NITED. Berry remnant between top and middle leaf pairs.   |      |
| 87   | 7  | O   | 1834    | 6502A  | Breen II-9.  | 3(b)B(c)     | OBV. Symmetrical 8. Truncation slightly curved. Slender 4, away from curl and a bit left of being centered under curl. 4 triple punched. Lightly lapped. REV. Middle leaves droop. Top arrowhead long, slender. Period distant from D. Lapped. Crack: edge - NITED. Berry remnant between top and middle leaf pairs.   |      |
| 87   | 8  | R   | 1834    | 6502A  | Breen II-9.  | 3(b)B(c)     | OBV. Symmetrical 8. Truncation slightly curved. Slender 4, away from curl and a bit left of being centered under curl. 4 triple punched. Lightly lapped. REV. Middle leaves droop. Top arrowhead long, slender. Period distant from D. Lapped. Crack: edge - NITED. Berry remnant between top and middle leaf pairs.   |      |
| 87   | 9  | O   | 1834    | 6501B  | Breen II-4.  | 2(a)C(a)     | OBV. Belted 8. Truncation markedly curved. Fat 4, close to curl, and bit left of being centered under curl. 8 low relative to 1 and 3. Die center punch within ear. REV. Middle leaves curve up. Top arrowhead long, slender. Arrowhead touches right serif of A. (E/D repunched to straighten or correct letter. D of 50 repunched. Squat period (repunched?).  |      |
| 87   | 10 | O   | 1834    | 6501B  | Breen II-4.  | 2(b)C(b)     | OBV. Belted 8. Truncation markedly curved. Fat 4, close to curl, and bit left of being centered under curl. 8 low relative to 1 and 3. Die center punch within ear. Cracks: edges to stars 3 thru 6. REV. Middle leaves curve up. Top arrowhead long, slender. Arrowhead touches right serif of A. (E/D repunched to straighten or correct letter. D of 50 repunched. Squat period (repunched?).   |      |
| 87   | 11 | R   | 1834    | 6501B  | Breen II-4.  | 2(b)C(b)     | OBV. Belted 8. Truncation markedly curved. Fat 4, close to curl, and bit left of being centered under curl. 8 low relative to 1 and 3. Die center punch within ear. Cracks: edges to stars 3 thru 6. REV. Middle leaves curve up. Top arrowhead long, slender. Arrowhead touches right serif of A. (E/D repunched to straighten or correct letter. D of 50 repunched. Squat period (repunched?).   |      |
| 87   | 12 | O   | 1834    | 6501A  | Breen II-2.  | 1(c)C(d)     | OBV. Belted 8. Truncation markedly curved. Fat 4, centered under curl. Cracks: eye - cheek, hair - top ribbon end, edge - star 7 - continuing thru head and hair to edge between 4 of date and star 13. Lightly lapped. REV. Middle leaves curve up. Top arrowhead long, slender. Arrowhead touches right serif of A. (E/D repunched to straighten or correct letter. Repunching of D of 50 no longer visible. Squat period (repunched?). Cracks: wing tips - edge, TED. Lapped. |      |
| 87   | 13 | R   | 1834    | 6501A  | Breen II-2.  | 1(b)C(e)     | OBV. Belted 8. Truncation markedly curved. Fat 4, centered under curl. Cracks: eye - cheek, hair - top ribbon end, hair - edge between 4 and star 13. Lightly lapped. REV. Middle leaves curve up. Top arrowhead long, slender. Arrowhead touches right serif of A. (E/D repunched. Squat period. Crack: left wing tip - edge. Lapped.   |      |
| 87   | 14 | O   | 1834    | 6502A  | Breen II-9.  | 3(a)C(c)     | OBV. Symmetrical 8. Truncation slightly curved. Slender 4, away from curl and a bit left of being centered under curl. 4 triple punched. No crack eye - cheek. REV. Middle leaves curve up. Top arrowhead long, slender. Arrowhead touches right serif of A. (E/D repunched to straighten or correct letter. Squat period. Crack: left wing tip - edge. Lapped.  |      |
| 87   | 15 | R   | 1834    | 6502A  | Breen II-9.  | 3(a)C(c)     | OBV. Symmetrical 8. Truncation slightly curved. Slender 4, away from curl and a bit left of being centered under curl. 4 triple punched. No crack eye - cheek. REV. Middle leaves curve up. Top arrowhead long, slender. Arrowhead touches right serif of A. (E/D repunched to straighten or correct letter. Squat period. Crack: left wing tip - edge. Lapped.  |      |
| 88   | 1  | O   | 1834    | 6503   | Breen II-10. | 5/1835A(d)   | OBV. Crosslet 4. Large date, belted 8. Truncation slightly curved. 4 nearly centered under curl. REV. Middle leaves curve up. Stems do not join foot. Small arrowheads. Arrowheads quite apart from A. Clashed, evident within shield. Die first used for 1835 A 34-4. Lapped.   |      |
| 88   | 2  | R   | 1834    | 6503   | Breen II-10. | 5/1835A(d)   | OBV. Crosslet 4. Large date, belted 8. Truncation slightly curved. 4 nearly centered under curl. REV. Middle leaves curve up. Stems do not join foot. Small arrowheads. Arrowheads quite apart from A. Clashed, evident within shield. Die first used for 1835 A 34-4. Lapped.   |      |
| 89   | 1  | O   | 1835    | 6504   | Breen 1.     | 1(a)A(a)     | OBV. First head. Small date. Symmetrical 8. Truncation slightly curved. 5 slightly left of being centered under curl. REV. Middle leaves curve up. Stems do not join foot. Small arrowheads. Arrowheads quite apart from A. No clashing evident within shield. Die used prior to use for 1834 50(d) (Crosslet 4).  |      |



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| 89   | 2  | R   | 1835    | 6504   | Breen 1.   | 1(a)A(a)     | OBV. First head. Small date. Symmetrical 8. Truncation slightly curved. 5 slightly left of being centered under curl. REV. Middle leaves curve up. Stems do not join foot. Small arrowheads. Arrowheads quite apart from A. No clashing evident within shield. Die used prior to use for 1834 5D(d) (Crosslet 4).  | 10   |
| 89   | 3  | O   | 1835    | 6505   | Breen .    | 2(a)1834C(f) | OBV. Second head. Small date. Belted 8. Truncation markedly curved. 5 slightly left of being centered under curl. 1 High relative to 8, with sharp pointed peak. Die center punch within ear. REV. That of 1834 2C. Heavily lapped. Many elements thin. Middle leaf pair curves up. Bottom stem joins foot. Bottom arrowhead touches right serif of A. Squat period. Crack: left wing tip - edge.  |      |
| 89   | 4  | R   | 1835    | 6505   | Breen .    | 2(b)1834C(g) | OBV. Second head. Small date. Belted 8. Truncation markedly curved. 5 slightly left of being centered under curl. 1 High relative to 8, with sharp pointed peak. Die center punch within ear. Lightly lapped. REV. That of 1834 2C. Heavily lapped. Many elements thin. Middle leaf pair curves up. Bottom stem joins foot. Bottom arrowhead touches right serif of A. Squat period. Crack: left wing tip - edge.  |      |
| 89   | 5  | R   | 1835    | 6505   | Breen ?.   | 2(c)1834A(c) | OBV. Second head. Small date. Belted 8. Truncation markedly curved. 5 slightly left of being centered under curl. 1 High relative to 8, with sharp pointed peak. Die center punch within ear. Lightly lapped. REV. That of 1834A. Minted AFTER use of die for 1835 1A and 2A!! Middle leaf pair curves up. All stems join foot. Stemmed berry attached to top stem. Arrowheads clear of A. Squat period. Crack: Bisection reverse from edge - right edge of middle leaf pair - stem - leg - base of right wing - n   |      |
| 89   | 6  | O   | 1835    | 6504   | Breen 1.   | 1(b)A(b)     | OBV. First head. Small date. Symmetrical 8. Truncation slightly curved. 5 slightly left of being centered under curl. Clashing in head. Lapped. REV. Middle leaves curve up. Stems do not join foot. Small arrowheads. Arrowheads quite apart from A. Clashing evident within shield. Lapped. Die used prior to use for 1834 5D(d) (Crosslet 4).   |      |
| 89   | 7  | R   | 1835    | 6504   | Breen 1.   | 1(b)A(b)     | OBV. First head. Small date. Symmetrical 8. Truncation slightly curved. 5 slightly left of being centered under curl. Clashing in head. Lapped. REV. Middle leaves curve up. Stems do not join foot. Small arrowheads. Arrowheads quite apart from A. Clashing evident within shield. Lapped. Die used prior to use for 1834 5D(d) (Crosslet 4).   |      |
| 89   | 8  | O   | 1835    | 6504   | Breen 1.   | 1(c)A(c)     | OBV. First head. Small date. Symmetrical 8. Truncation slightly curved. 5 slightly left of being centered under curl. Clashing in head. Lapped. REV. Middle leaves curve up. Stems do not join foot. Small arrowheads. Arrowheads quite apart from A. Clashing evident within shield. Lapped. Die used prior to use for 1834 5D(d) (Crosslet 4).   |      |
| 89   | 9  | O   | 1835    | 6504   | Breen ?.   | 1(d)1834A(a) | OBV. First head. Small date. Symmetrical 8. Truncation slightly curved. 5 slightly left of being centered under curl. Clashing in head. Lapped. REV. That of 1834 3A. Middle leaves curve down. Stems do not join foot. Three long, slender arrowheads. Arrowheads quite apart from A. Clashing remnant evident within shield. Lapped.   |      |
| 89   | 10 | R   | 1835    | 6504   | Breen ?.   | 1(d)1834A(e) | OBV. First head. Small date. Symmetrical 8. Truncation slightly curved. 5 slightly left of being centered under curl. Clashing in head. Lapped. REV. That of 1834 3A. Middle leaves curve down. Stems do not join foot. Three long, slender arrowheads. Arrowheads quite apart from A. Clashing remnant evident within shield. Lapped.   |      |
| 89   | 11 | O   | 1835    | 6504   | Breen ?.   | 1(e)B        | OBV. First head. Small date. Symmetrical 8. Truncation slightly curved. 5 slightly left of being centered under curl. Clashing in head. Lapped. REV. That of 1834 3A. Middle leaves curve down. Stems do not join foot. Three long, slender arrowheads. Arrowheads quite apart from A. Clashing remnant evident within shield. Lapped.   |      |
| 89   | 12 | R   | 1835    | 6504   | Breen ?.   | 1(e)B        | OBV. First head. Small date. Symmetrical 8. Truncation slightly curved. 5 slightly left of being centered under curl. Clashing in head. Lapped. REV. That of 1834 3A. Middle leaves curve down. Stems do not join foot. Three long, slender arrowheads. Arrowheads quite apart from A. Clashing remnant evident within shield. Lapped.   |      |
| 89   | 13 | O   | 1835    | 6504   | Breen 6.   | 1(f)1834C(b) | OBV. First head. Small date. Symmetrical 8. Truncation slightly curved. 5 slightly left of being centered under curl. Clashing in head. Lapped. REV. That of 1834 2C. Heavily lapped. Many elements thin. Middle leaf pair curves up. Bottom stem joins foot. Bottom arrowhead touches right serif of A. Squat period. Crack: left wing tip - edge.  |      |
| 89   | 14 | O   | 1835    | 6506B  | Breen ?.   | 3/1834C(e)   | OBV. Third head. Large date. All numerals large. Symmetrical 8. 1 is tall, blunted peak, fat at base. Truncation slightly curved. 5 centered under curl. REV. That of 1834 2C. Heavily lapped. Many elements thin. Middle leaf pair curves up. Bottom stem joins foot. Bottom arrowhead touches right serif of A. Squat period. Crack: left wing tip - edge.   |      |
| 90   | 1  | O   | 1836    | 6507   | Breen ?.   | 1(a)A(a)     | OBV. First head. Large date. Symmetrical 8. Tall 1, blunted peak. Truncation slightly curved. Only obverse of year with narrow bust end - as last of 1835. Fat 6, bit right of being centered under curl. Center punch in ear. Two horizontal ridges within top ribbon end. No crack edge above star 5 - forelock. REV. Subsequently used for 2A, then with 1835 obv. 2 (with crack E(S) tonidole leaf pair. Stemmed berry joins top leaf stem. Middle leaf pair curves up, toward U. All stems join foot. Small 5, far from D. D repunched clockwise at top.  |      |
| 90   | 2  | R   | 1836    | 6507   | Breen ?.   | 1(b)A(b)     | OBV. First head. Large date. Symmetrical 8. Tall 1, blunted peak. Truncation slightly curved. Only obverse of year with narrow bust end - as last of 1835. Fat 6, bit right of being centered under curl. Center punch in ear. Two horizontal ridges within top ribbon end. Crack: edge above star 5 - forelock. REV. Crack: E(S) - head - shield corner - past middle leaf pair at right - edge. Subsequently used for 2A, then with 1835 obv. 2 (both with crack E(S) past middle leaf pair). Stemmed berry joins top leaf stem. Middle leaf pair curves up, toward U. All stems join foot. Small 5, far from D. D repunched clockwise at top. |      |
| 91   | 1  | O   | 1836    | 6509   | Breen ?.   | 2(b)A(b)     | OBV. Second head. Large date. Symmetrical 8. Tall 1, blunted peak. Truncation slightly curved. Rounded truncation end. Fat 6, centered under curl. Center punch in ear. Star is close to hair. Crack: edge - upright of 6 - curl - hair thru 1 - hair - star 8 - edge. REV. Crack: E(S) - head - shield corner - past middle leaf pair at right - edge. Subsequently used for 2A, then with 1835 obv. 2 (both with crack E(S) past middle leaf pair). Stemmed berry joins top leaf stem. Middle leaf pair curves up, toward U. All stems join foot. Small 5, far from D. D repunched clockwise at top.   |      |

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|------|----|-----|---------|-------|------------|--------------|--|------|
| 91   | 2  | R   | 1836    | 6509  | Breen ?    | 2(b)A(b)     | OBV. Second head. Large date. Symmetrical 8. Tall 1, blunted peak. Truncation slightly curved. Rounded truncation end. Fat 6, centered under curl. Center punch in ear. Star 13 close to hair. Crack: edge - upright of 6 - curl - hair thru T - hair - star 8 - edge. REV. Crack: E(S) - head - shield corner - past middle leaf pair at right - edge. Subsequently used for 24, then with 1835 obv. 2 (both with crack E(S) past middle leaf pair). Stemmed berry joins top leaf stem. Middle leaf pair curves up, toward U. All stems join foot. Small 5, far from D. D repunched clockwise at top.   | 11   |
| 92   | 1  | O   | 1836    | 6509  | Breen 2.   | 2(c)1834C(i) | OBV. Second head. Large date. Symmetrical 8. Tall 1, blunted peak. Truncation slightly curved. Rounded truncation end. Fat 6, centered under curl. Center punch in ear. Star 13 close to hair. Crack: edge - upright of 6 - curl - hair thru T - hair - star 8 - edge. Lapped. REV. That of 1834 2C (also used with 1835 obverses 1 and 2).  |      |
| 92   | 2  | R   | 1836    | 6509  | Breen 2.   | 2(d)1834C(j) | OBV. Second head. Large date. Symmetrical 8. Tall 1, blunted peak. Truncation slightly curved. Rounded truncation end. Fat 6, centered under curl. Center punch in ear. Star 13 close to hair. Crack: edge - upright of 6 - curl - hair thru T - hair - star 8 - edge. Lapped. REV. That of 1834 2C (also used with 1835 obverses 1 and 2).  |      |
| 92   | 3  | O   | 1836    | 6509  | Breen 2.   | 2(e)1834C(k) | OBV. Second head. Large date. Symmetrical 8. Tall 1, blunted peak. Truncation slightly curved. Rounded truncation end. Fat 6, centered under curl. Center punch in ear. Star 13 close to hair. Crack: edge - upright of 6 - curl - hair thru T - hair - star 8 - edge. Lapped. REV. That of 1834 2C (also used with 1835 obverses 1 and 2).  |      |
| 92   | 4  | R   | 1836    | 6509  | Breen 2.   | 2(f)1834C(k) | OBV. Second head. Large date. Symmetrical 8. Tall 1, blunted peak. Truncation slightly curved. Rounded truncation end. Fat 6, centered under curl. Center punch in ear. Star 13 close to hair. Crack: edge - upright of 6 - curl - hair thru T - hair - star 8 - edge. Lapped. REV. That of 1834 2C (also used with 1835 obverses 1 and 2).  |      |
| 93   | 1  | O   | 1836    | 6510  | Breen ?    | 39(a)        | OBV.   |      |
| 93   | 2  | R   | 1836    | 6510  | Breen ?    | 39(a)        | OBV.   |      |
| 94   | 1  | O   | 1836    | B#??  | Breen ?    | 4(a)C        | OBV.   |      |
| 94   | 2  | O   | 1836    | B#??  | Breen ?    | 4(b)C        | OBV.   |      |
| 94   | 3  | R   | 1836    | B#??  | Breen ?    | 4(c)C        | OBV.   |      |
| 95   | 1  | O   | 1836    | 6509? | Breen ?    | 5(a)D(b)     | OBV.   |      |
| 95   | 2  | R   | 1836    | 6509  | Breen ?    | 5(a)D(a)     | OBV.   |      |
| 96   | 1  | O   | 1836    | 6509  | Breen ?    | 5(b)B(b)     | OBV.   |      |
| 96   | 2  | R   | 1836    | 6509  | Breen ?    | 5(b)B(b)     | OBV.   |      |
| 97   | 1  | O   | 1836    | 6508  | Breen ?    | 60(c)        | OBV.   |      |
| 97   | 2  | R   | 1836    | 6508  | Breen ?    | 60(c)        | OBV.   |      |
| 98   | 1  | O   | 1837    | -0-   | Breen ?    | -0-          | OBV.   |      |
| 98   | 2  | R   | 1837    | -0-   | Breen ?    | -0-          | OBV.   |      |
| 99   | 1  | O   | 1837    | -0-   | Breen ?    | -0-          | OBV.   |      |
| 99   | 2  | R   | 1837    | -0-   | Breen ?    | -0-          | OBV.   |      |
| 100  | 1  | O   | 1837    | -0-   | Breen ?    | -0-          | OBV.   |      |
| 100  | 2  | R   | 1837    | -0-   | Breen ?    | -0-          | OBV.   |      |
| 101  | 1  | O   | 1838    | 6514  | Breen 1.   | 1-1837(b)    | OBV. Center punch in ear. Belted 8s. 3 a bit high relative to 8s. Last 8 not entirely under curl. Sharp pitch to top of 1. REV. Eagle device that of 1837 and prior; right wing bone quite angulate, talons large. Slender broken stemmed berry. Small double punched 5. Large arrowheads. A(M) touches wing. Clashed. Lapped.   |      |
| 101  | 2  | R   | 1838    | 6514  | Breen 1.   | 1-1837(c)    | OBV. Center punch in ear. Belted 8s. 3 a bit high relative to 8s. Last 8 not entirely under curl. Sharp pitch to top of 1. REV. Eagle device that of 1837 and prior; right wing bone quite angulate, talons large. Slender broken stemmed berry. Small double punched 5. Large arrowheads. A(M) touches wing. Clashed. Lapped.   |      |
| 101  | 3  | R   | 1838    | 6515  | Breen 2.   | 2B           | OBV. No center punch in ear. Belted 8s. 3 a bit low relative to 8s. Last 8 almost entirely under curl. Shallow pitch to top of 1. REV. New eagle device; right wing bone slightly angulate, talons small. Globular stemmed berry. Large 5. Small arrowheads. A(M) apart from wing. Not clashed.  |      |
| 102  | 1  | O   | 1838 C  | 6517  | Breen ?    | 1(b)A(b)     | OBV. Center punch in ear. Symmetrical 8s. Tall 1. Mint mark C over 3. Lapped. REV. Normal 5. Heavily lapped, removing berry. A(M) apart from wing. Leaves distant from U. Stems disconnected from foot.  |      |
| 102  | 2  | R   | 1838 C  | 6517  | Breen ?    | 1(a)A(a)     | OBV. Center punch in ear. Symmetrical 8s. Tall 1. Mint mark C over 3. Lapped. REV. Normal 5. Slender stemless berry. A(M) apart from wing. Leaves distant from U. Stems connected to foot. Lapped.   |      |
| 102  | 3  | R   | 1838 C  | 6517  | Breen ?    | 1(b)A(b)     | OBV. Center punch in ear. Symmetrical 8s. Tall 1. Mint mark C over 3. Lapped. REV. Normal 5. Heavily lapped, removing berry. A(M) apart from wing. Leaves distant from U. Stems disconnected from foot.  |      |
| 102  | 4  | R   | 1838 C  | 6516  | Breen 1.   | 1(b)B(a)     | OBV. Center punch in ear. Symmetrical 8s. Tall 1. Mint mark C over 3. Lapped. REV. 3 markedly repunched lower, previous knob remaining - filling 2's left opening. A(M) all but touches wing. One leaf quite close to left curve of U, and connected to it by a lump of some type. Stems disconnected from foot. Apparently entire legend first punched using incorrect set of punches. Die then heavily lapped, and legend repunched with a larger set of punches. Remnants of most characters remain above final legend.   |      |
| 102  | 5  | R   | 1838 C  | 6516  | Breen 1.   | 1(c)B(b)     | OBV. Center punch in ear. Symmetrical 8s. Tall 1. Mint mark C over 3. Lapped. REV. 5 markedly repunched lower, previous knob remaining - filling 5's left opening. A(M) all but touches wing. One leaf quite close to left curve of U, and connected to it by a lump of some type. Stems disconnected from foot. Apparently entire legend first punched using incorrect set of punches. Die then heavily lapped, and legend repunched with a larger set of punches. Remnants of most characters remain above final legend. Patal crack: edge - leaf tip - foot - shield - neck - above left wing - edge. Heavily relapped; many design features, normally in shallow relief, now absent - notably in eagle's right leg and wing. |      |
| 103  | 1  | O   | 1838 D  | 6518  | Breen 1.   | 1(a)A        | OBV. Belted 8s. 183 repunched higher. Small D centered high over 3. Double forelock. REV. ST repunched lower. Crack: tops of MERICA.   |      |



| Grp# | C# | O/R | Year/MH | Breen# | Breen Var. | Bass Variety | Description  | Page |
|------|----|-----|---------|--------|------------|--------------|--|------|
| 103  | 2  | O   | 1838 D  | 6518   | Breen 1.   | 1(b)A        | OBV. Belted 6s. 183 repunched higher. Small D centered high over 3. Lapping reduced lower forelock to a remnant. REV. ST repunched lower. Crack: tops of MEXICA. | 12   |
| 103  | 3  | R   | 1838 D  | 6518   | Breen 1.   | 1(a)A        | OBV. Belted 6s. 183 repunched higher. Small D centered high over 3. Double forelock. REV. ST repunched lower. Crack: tops of MEXICA.                             |      |

See below.

CLASSIC HEAD HALF EAGLES 1834-1838

Ever since the beginning of regular coinage in 1793, the Mint's principal output consisted of three denominations, one to each metal: cents, half dollars and half eagles. More dies were ~~qum~~ required for each of these denominations than for all the rest put together. The problem with increasing coinage output in the 1820's ~~was~~ and 30's was always to multiply working dies identical in principal devices--such stereotypy being thought ~~as~~ a principal deterrent to counterfeiting.

The problem became acute after passage of the Mint Act of June 28, 1834. As soon as it became apparent that the bill had a good chance of passage, ~~the~~ 24,568 half eagles with motto ~~pluribus unum~~ (struck on May 30) were prevented from leaving the Mint and were sent back to be remelted pending the Act's going into effect August 1. Mint Director Samuel Moore ordered

Engraver William Kneass to prepare a large quantity of new dies, omitting the motto. Kneass, as always, preferred to adapt older designs, and the one he chose was the old John Reich "Classic Head" portrait, earlier seen on cents of 1808-14 and half cents 1809-11, 1825~~mm~~-34; the eagle was a modified version of the one Reich had ~~mm~~ placed on the gold coins beginning in 1807, though without the Great Seal's ~~E PLURIBUS UNUM~~ which Moore had been trying to phase out ever since 1831.

The flood of deposits of old gold coins with motto materialized, augmented by gold discovered in the Cherokee country of Georgia <sup>(resulting in the Cherokee being dispossessed)</sup> by new shipments from a variety of other sources, and in the next couple of years also by large quantities of French coins--part of an indemnity paid by the "Citizen King" for some now-forgotten incident, representing a triumph for President Andrew Jackson. Coinages of the new type with motto far exceeded any previous issues--exceeding the mint's wildest expectations. Nevertheless, mint state examples of this design are very rare, especially of later years through 1838, as the coins went into circulation to stay,

FILE 5 1834-38



WB: Early United States Half Eagles 1795-1838  
original ms. Continues through 1899-S.

NEW NEW VARIETIES OF UNITED STATES GOLD

by Walter Breen

When I first attempted to list die varieties of gold, I thought the subject would be pure caviar, interesting at most a dozen or fifteen readers, and stimulating little or no additional research even on their part. The results have been far otherwise. A surprising amount of correspondence has come my way from collectors interested in the various series (half eagles most of all), including descriptions of new varieties and new die states owned by them, and examination of some extremely rare coins has followed. The present study is an attempt to bring up to date the material now in print on the four lower denominations of gold. (Page references to follow, and all die variety numberings, allude to the four monographs in print: Major Varieties of U.S. Gold Dollars, Varieties of U.S. Quarter Eagles, Major Varieties of the U.S. Three Dollar Gold Pieces, and Early United States Half Eagles 1795-1838, <sup>Numismatic</sup> Hewitt/Information Series, 1964-66.) Cooperation of Mrs. R. Henry Norweb, Leo A. Young, Lester Merkin, Stanley Kesselman, Marvin Taichert, Stephen Christy, and Harry Bass is greatly appreciated and gratefully acknowledged. Other collectors who have helped out in smaller measure are too numerous to mention here, but I thank them one and all.

1807 Bust left. My number 5-D is A-8\*; Adams lists also a number 9\* having the same obv. and a rev. with leaf farther from U, lower arrow beyond G, crack from rim to scroll passing through middle of E in STATES. None seen.

1813. The other variety claimed by Woodin and Adams has been located. In value 5 is plainly recut; first S much nearer wing; claws more curved

than usual, that at farthest right extending into feathers; first S wholly above E, whereas on the usually seen variety first S is partly right of E. A clash mark has distorted UM. (Thanks, Harry Bass)

1814/13. This is very rarely seen with plain overdate; usually only faint trace of one corner of 3 shows. Rev. Faint crack through MER, which also shows on the latest 1813's.

1820. Mrs. Norweb reports a specimen muling my obv. 1 and rev. C. It is doubtless exceedingly rare.

1820 ~~2-A~~<sup>2-B</sup> is Adams 3\*; 3-C is Adams 6\*; 4-D is A-2\*; 4-E is A-1\*.

Adams describes as number 5\* what would be obv. 3 with rev. D in my notation, and refers to Jewett 869. I have ~~not~~ not had opportunity to check this.

Adams describes as number 7\* what would be obv. 3 with rev. E in my notation, citing H.O.M. Granberg as then owner. Not verified.

Adams describes as number 8\* a new variety of type III: first star closer to bust than on any other square base 2 die; curl above space between 2 and O; rev. "small 5D. S of STATES overhangs S of PLURIBUS." This probably means S above S and space to right. Not illustrated.

1821. 1-A ~~is~~ is A-2\*: "~~first~~ 6<sup>th</sup> star points left of first fold of cap."

1821 3-A is A-1\*: "6<sup>th</sup> star points directly at first fold of cap."

1822. Adams claims that one Wiatt (nowhere else named) owned a 4th.

1823. Obv. description should read "First star nearly touches bust, almost as close..." and "On heavy strikes, 8<sup>th</sup> star practically touches both cap and border."

1825. Obv. 2 should read in addition: Foot of digit shows at bottom r. of 5; 3rd, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12th stars recut.

1832 Twelve Stars. The 5th example came originally from Stickney 674, holed between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> stars; distant period. 5

1834 Motto. I-1 is A-2A\*; I-3 is A-2\*; A-1\* is supposedly obv. 1 with



new reverse with arrow pointing directly to center of A. This has not been verified. The arrow points to r. tip of left foot of A on all so far seen.

1834 I-3, with crossley 4, does come with a rev. different from foregoing; lowest arrow points to left tip of left foot of A, middle arrow to left foot of I (on the other rev. it is between IC), first A much farther from wing, period lower than on the other die. Compare Grant Pierce 379.

~~1834~~ 1834 XI-3 is A-7\*; II-<sup>5</sup> is A-9\*; II-9 is A-5\* and this appears to have the reverse die of II-6. Upper two pairs of leaves disconnected from claw; later shows cracks from wingtip to border at r., and through STATES.

1836-5 has the same reverse die that was later used on 1838-1. Close TES.

1837-2 develops a small lump or chip in die (rust pit?) r. of final A.

1837-3 has date ~~pin~~ punches as on quarter eagles and half dimes. IT recut at left; period away from D; crack ~~2~~ develops through tops of AME.

1838-D. The variations alluded to result from die wear; recutting on crack develops through tops of MERICA. bases of 18 faded out; Only the one pair of dies was actually used; the second pair, according to RR.W.Julian, was kept in the vault and rusted unused.

Philadelphia Mint. Gold coinages, 1795-1837

|       | Quarter eagles       | Half eagles       | Eagles            |
|-------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1795. |                      | 8707 <sup>a</sup> | 2795              |
| 1796. |                      | 6196              | 6934              |
| 1797. | AV 859               | 3609 <sup>b</sup> | 8323 <sup>c</sup> |
| 1798. | 1094 614             | 2486 <sup>d</sup> | 7974              |
| 1799. | 4808                 | 7451              | 1742              |
| 1800. |                      | 11622             | 6232              |
| 1801. |                      | 2600 <sup>e</sup> | 5857              |
| 1802. |                      | 5317 <sup>f</sup> | 1742              |
| 1803. | 3035                 | 32500             | 2466              |
| 1804. |                      | 30475             | 1742              |
| 1805. |                      | 33183             | 1742              |
| 1806. |                      | 64093             | 1742              |
| 1807. |                      | 33496             | 1742              |
| 1808. |                      | 50597             | 1742              |
| 1809. |                      | 55578             | 1742              |
| 1810. |                      | 33875             | 1742              |
| 1811. |                      | 100287            | 1742              |
| 1812. |                      | 99581             | 1742              |
| 1813. |                      | 58087             | 1742              |
| 1814. |                      | 95428             | 1742              |
| 1815. |                      | 15454             | 1742              |
| 1816. | No coinage           | 635               | 1742              |
| 1817. | Mint burned Jan. 11, | 1816.             | 1742              |
| 1818. |                      | 48588             | 1742              |
| 1819. |                      | 51723             | 1742              |
| 1820. |                      | 263806            | 1742              |
| 1821. | 6448                 | 34641             | 1742              |
| 1822. |                      | 17796             | 1742              |
| 1823. |                      | 14485             | 1742              |
| 1824. | 2600                 | 17340             | 1742              |
| 1825. | 4434                 | 29060             | 1742              |
| 1826. | 760                  | 18069             | 1742              |
| 1827. | 2800                 | 24913             | 1742              |
| 1828. |                      | 28029             | 1742              |
| 1829. | 3403                 | 57442             | 1742              |
| 1830. | 4540                 | 126351            | 1742              |
| 1831. | 4520                 | 140594            | 1742              |
| 1832. | 4400                 | 157187            | 1742              |
| 1833. | 4160                 | 193630            | 1742              |
| 1834. | Motto                | 74709             | 1742              |
| 1835. | No motto             | 112234            | 1742              |
| 1836. |                      | 658028            | 1742              |
| 1837. |                      | 371534            | 1742              |
|       |                      | 547986            | 1742              |
|       |                      | 45080             | 207121            |

<sup>a</sup> This figure evidently cannot include the coins with heraldic eagle; the reverse of those is patently a product of later than June 1796 (sixteen stars), and as the 1796 coins bear only the small eagle, presumably it is a 1797 or 1798 product.

<sup>b</sup> Division into small and large eagle types undeterminable; the change may have occurred anytime but most likely in 1798, since none of these retain the small eagle.

<sup>c</sup> Same comment as above.

<sup>d</sup> The first delivery (Jan. 4, separated by almost two months from the next—624 pieces) may have comprised all the small eagle coins.

<sup>e</sup> No coins of this date known; they may have been from 1798 dies.

<sup>f</sup> Like the preceding, coined in the year noted, but unknown as dated. The two Dickeson saw may have been alterations.

<sup>g, h</sup> Same comments.

<sup>i</sup> Division from Snowden's Mint Manual (1860). No evidence for or against this in the Mint record.



# Research In The Archives Gold Coinage Revisions By Date. By Walter Breen (Cont.) WB's copy.

## RESEARCH IN THE ARCHIVES

### GOLD COINAGE REVISIONS BY DATES

By WALTER BREEN

CONTINUED

#### Philadelphia

For brevity I omit the quarterly figures, but the figures presented are valid and all are based on the (sometimes weekly) reports in the Bullion Journals. The totals in American State Papers—Finance contain typographical errors. Another source of confusion previously has been the fact that Director's Reports in 1796-7 were ordered by Congress prematurely. The 1796 report was delivered Nov. 29 and consequently a delivery of 854 eagles, 2797 half-eagles and 897 quarter eagles was included by error in the 1797 report although all these were made in 1796 to be exact, between Dec. 8 and Dec. 22. This is corrected here.

|      | \$10 | \$5   | \$2½             |
|------|------|-------|------------------|
| 1795 | 2795 | 8707  |                  |
| 1796 | 6934 | 6196  | 963 (both types) |
| 1797 | 8323 | 3609  | 859              |
| 1798 | 7974 | 24867 | 614              |

N. B. First coinage of 1798 half-eagles Jan. 4, 691 pieces—were these the small eagle type? I believe that a study of early

gold die varieties would prove that the 1795 heraldic \$5.00 were made in 1798.

1799 17483 7451 480 Dec. 28

All other published figures confirmed though no explanation appears for the unknowns (1801 \$5, 1802 \$10, 1803 \$2.50). The latter were not carryovers.

1807. There is no reasonable evidence for or against Snowden's division of the \$5: 33496 Type I

50597 Type II

1808-14. No problems.

1815. 635 Nov. 13 plus 3 for assay.

The Coiner had \$3661.33 in gold fit for coining 12/31/15; no more coined because of the Mint fire which made extensive repairs necessary to the rolling apparatus.

1818-33. No questions. Figures obtained (as above) confirm published.

1834. Motto \$5—74709, \$2½—4000 Coinage stopped May 30 anticipating the reduction in weight. The Act of 6/28 became effective on August 1, 1834.

November-December, 1951

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Snowden doubts that the \$2.50 were ever issued. No Motto \$5—685028, \$2½—112234.

In 1835-6 approximately \$2 million of gold of former ratio was recoined; far smaller amounts thereafter. The totals are not determinable since accounting of source of bullion deposits is far from complete. The whole amount of gold of former ratio brought into the Mint cannot be far below \$3 million and may exceed it.

1838. Coinage of Eagles resumed December; four "specimen coins" sent on or before Dec. 10. One of 1838 (and one of 1839) proof is in the Mint Collection.

1841 Quarter -Eagles. None reserved for assay. Evidently they were only a "specimen" coinage like the half-cents.

1849. Gold Dollars. Coinage started May 8. There exist a few pieces with small head somewhat differently executed and placed than on the regular; one is in the Mint Cabinet and is the first gold dollar proof I have seen and the second I ever heard of, moreover besides the 1849 \$20 it is the only proof coin of that date in the collection. Probably a pattern as this type head was not perpetuated. It is impossible to say when the open wreath was replaced by the closed wreath; no data are known to me on this subject other than letters (far later) of the D/M saying that the open wreath were the "first issue".

1850. Regular \$20 coinage for circulation started March 12. A proof was in the J. B. Longacre collection.

1854. Probably the best division would place the gold dollars as follows:

Type I 840040

Type II 799405

The difficulty here is in assigning a delivery of August 19 (56097). The

first "specimens" sent the Secretary of the Treasury for approval were transmitted August 17; when his letter of approval arrived is unknown—it has not been found in the Archives. Coinage had been intermitted since June 17 (783943 till then); evidently the change of type was then contemplated. If the Sec'y telegraphed his reply, it is possible that the Aug. 19 delivery was of Type II; but no real evidence. In the absence of better data, the figures I gave above (allowing the Aug. 19 delivery to be included as Type I) will stand. It is almost certain that the Sec'y approval came on or before Aug. 24 and that is the assumption I am proceeding on.

\$3.00 gold: Regular coinage started May 1, first delivery 23140 on May 8. On April 28, 15 "specimens" were enclosed in a letter of the Director to the Sec'y of the Treasury.

1858. The 2521 eagles did not include proofs, as far as can be learned.

It may be mentioned that around 1860 the Director caused about \$2 million in gold dollars of the small size to be melted and recoined. These pieces had lain for years in the N. Y. Assay office, and in the Director's Report (for 1860 or 61, I believe) there is mentioned his belief that the rest ought to be gradually recalled, the "evil" of having two coins of different sizes but same value being only too apparent. Whether any more were actually recoined I have been unable to find out, but the chances are that any subsequent recoinage was small on account of the suspension of specie payments and the consequent hoarding of what precious metals were available during the Civil War.

Later notes on gold coin will be found among proof coin notes.



SEYMOURWAMPUMSEYMOURWAM  
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WB's annotated copy Gold and Silver Coinage  
Revision Southern Branch Mints Sept.-Oct. 1951  
CCJ.

GOLD AND SILVER COINAGE REVISION

GOLD AND SILVER COINAGE REVISION  
SOUTHERN BRANCH MINTS

New Orleans

The records for the first two or three years are somewhat confused and incomplete for several causes. One of them is that investigation which occupied the greater part of 1839 in the N.O. Mint and resulted in the replacement of the Superintendent and Treasurer (respectively David Bradford and Edm. Forstall) by J. M. Kennedy and Horace Cammack. This first treasurer (Forstall) seems to have been the tool of his clerk, incompetent to do more than sign the papers shoved in front of him by that clerk. The latter did an unknown amount of figure juggling and embezzling. Another reason was the death of the Coiner and the Melter and Refiner during the investigation. These officers might have otherwise cleared up much of the confusion. A third reason is the absence of regular monthly reports, the responsibility jointly of the Treasurer and Superintendent. A fourth is the omission of some figures from the reports that were sent in. A fifth is the use of dies of the previous year in the current year, though this was against the "advice" of the director. My reconstruction of the 1838-39 N.O. coinage figures follows, for the disputed denominations, and is based on all extant material of relevance.

|      | Half-Dollars | Dimes     | Half-Dimes |
|------|--------------|-----------|------------|
| 1838 | ?            | 489,064   | 115,000    |
| 1839 | 162,976      | 1,121,672 | 1,016,550  |

Dimes

The first 30, struck May 7-8, 1838 were not included in later Mint reports. Ten were put in the cornerstone of the New American Theatre in New Orleans, laid the same time; one was sent to the Director at Philadelphia (was this the specimen now in the Mint Cabinet?) and the rest were distributed among the Mint officials and workmen in New Orleans. Coinage immediately stopped because the dime press required extensive readjust-

ments and repairs before any more than those first thirty could be struck. (The dies had arrived on the 3rd of May). Between June 29 and the end of July a total of 367,434 more dimes were struck, the press only by then being in workable condition. Coinage stopped by the first of August and the Mint shut down on account of New Orleans's annual yellow fever epidemic.

Coinage resumed November 30th also supposedly (from the reports) of dimes, though more probably of half dimes. 35,000 pieces were struck. It is worthy of note that post-investigation figures provided by the Treasurer at New Orleans and included in the 1850 and later Director's Reports called these 35,000 half-dimes. The presently published figures (402,434 dimes) are a result of the Director in 1887 having gone back to the pre-investigation reports made by the incompetent treasurer Forstall. It is also certain that some dimes and half-dimes dated 1838 were made in 1839—see below.

Half-dimes

None were reserved for assay in 1838—highly irregular. It is certain that some were struck late in that year, however, because a letter of the Superintendent, David Bradford, of January 4, 1839 refers to the fact that all but one pair of the half-dimes dies of 1838 were worn out. The 1839 dies of dime and half-dime denomination were forwarded January 30, 1839. The exact date of arrival is unknown but certainly at least two weeks later; the average time required was 18 to 19 days. Previous to then were struck:

|                   | Dimes   | Half-Dimes |
|-------------------|---------|------------|
| Delivered Jan. 16 | 3,600   | 70,000     |
| Delivered Jan. 31 | 118,000 | 10,000     |

My reconstruction includes these figures plus the 35,000 of the November 1838



coinage and the thirty struck in May 1838 for the proper denominations. No previous 1839-O dies are known to have been sent for the dimes and half-dimes and certainly none for the others. The first 1839 half-dollar dies were sent February 26 and arrived March 16. The next were sent March 12 and received at New Orleans March 29 along with two pairs of quarter eagle dies.

#### Half-dollars 1838-O

The historical background is provided by the letter of March 7, 1839 from Bradford to the Director in Philadelphia:

... Up to this time we have but one Coining press in operation and that the least of the three we have. About the Middle of January, Mr. Tyler struck a few pieces of half-dollars in the large press. He informed me that the half-dollar dies that had been received at this Branch Mint were made from Mr. Efeldts press and were too short for the large press in this Mint. He informed me that he had fitted a Member to supply the length in which the half-dollar dies we have are deficient but that it was crushed after striking a few pieces. We urgently need the quarter dollar, the half-dollar, and a further supply of the dime and half-dime dies for the year and I respectfully request that they be forwarded to this Branch Mint by the earliest opportunity. I have to request that you inform me how many pieces a set of dies generally strike and whether we may use the dies we have on hand for 1838? ...

The Director's reply, dated March 15 reads:

"I advise that the dies of 1838 be not used by you, tho' we have sometimes used the dies of a particular year for a few days after its close. The number of pieces that can be struck with a pair of dies depends upon the hardening and is very variable. Our average is about 200,000."

From the preceding correspondence it appears that Bradford had presented the

Director with a fait accompli; the date of striking of the half-dollars (in January) compared with the time of arrival of the 1839 dies in March proves that the January emission was dated 1838. These half-dollars were not included in monthly or quarterly reports and may be considered as *essais* having been made solely to test the press.

The 1894 *Numismatist* contains on page 198 a review of Frossard's auction of the W. M. Friesner collection, and next to Lot 583 gives a note on the latter's disposition and source. This lot was one of the 1838-O half dollars. Not mentioned as such in the catalogue, this half-dollar was noted in the *Numismatist* review as coming wrapped in an old piece of paper inscribed in Rufus Tyler's handwriting: "The enclosed specimen coin of the U. S. branch mint at New Orleans is presented to President Bache by Rufus Tyler the Coiner. It may be proper to state that not more than 20 pieces were struck with the half-dollar dies of 1838." The coin was reportedly bid in by A. G. Heaton—early specialist in Branch Mint coinages. Its present whereabouts had not yet been ascertained at this writing, assuming that the Tyler autograph still remains with it.

Assuming the authenticity of the report and quotation in the *Numismatist*, we have an upper limit to the number coined of 1838. Extant New Orleans Mint records in the National Archives (which are all letters to Philadelphia and Washington) give no hint as to the actual number struck or extant, but it will not be far wrong to say that there were probably at least sixteen struck. The previous estimates of only three (Beistle), four (Dr. J. L. Riddell, melter and refiner at New Orleans) or seven (B. Max Mehl) are grossly inadequate. If only that Number, three to seven, had been struck, would Tyler have said simply "not more than twenty"? And actual count quickly exceeds the earlier figures. Colonel Green at one time owned four

of them, and there is no reason to believe that he had cornered the market. Besides his hoard, there is a fifth specimen in the Mint Collection; two or three others are in other museums and more in private hands. Beistle's estimate can be disregarded as he evidently did not have access to all of Green's material. The figure given by Dr. Riddell (quoted in Yeoman's Guidebook) is at best second-hand information, as he did not take office until some months after Rufus Tyler died. (Rufus Tyler, first coiner at New Orleans, died Sept. 8, 1839 from yellow fever, and was succeeded by his brother Philos B. Tyler. The melter and refiner, James Maxwell, fell victim to the same disease and died August 18, but Dr. Riddell, who was then appointed to succeed him, was on a geological expedition in Texas, and could not be located until the end of November; he gave bond and was sworn in shortly afterwards. This Riddell is perhaps better known for a "Monograph on the silver dollar, good and bad" published in 1845, and for his later excellent work in connection with the Confederate postal service.)

All specimens seen from these dies of 1838 are brilliant proofs, which immediately raises the question: were those now extant actually made in New Orleans or did Eckfeldt make them in Philadelphia before sending the (already mintmarked) dies to New Orleans? I personally think that they were intentionally made in New Orleans as proofs or "specimen coins" as they really were then called; there are several other examples of mintmarked proofs in the Mint Collection (now in the Smithsonian Institute), notably (1) 1879-O silver dollar, for which see below; (2) 1854-S double eagle; (3) 1855-S half dollar, and this is known to be the first specimen struck from the dies in 1855, sent by the superintendent to Director Snowden in Philadelphia for the Mint Cabinet. All of these pieces are perfect and bear all the

earmarks of the Philadelphia proofs. No record survives of when the Mint got its 1838-O half dollar, but I believe it is quite unlikely that the piece was made in Philadelphia. Besides, the reverse-unlike any others examined shows a broken die and the question arises: Did this damage result from the crushing of the piece of metal Tyler put in the press to supply the deficient die-length? See Bradford's letter of March 7, 1839, quoted above.

During late 1837 and early 1838 one of the three coin presses at New Orleans had been used in tests for striking some cents. Nothing is known about them, whether they are in existence now or were instead melted, other than the fact that the dies were dated 1836, and were in the press when the men from Philadelphia coining department brought it down to New Orleans in that year. These dies, along with all 1838-O dies, were destroyed June 13, 1839.

The extremely large proportion of dimes and Half dimes coined in New Orleans compared with the quarter and half-dollars is attributed by Bradford and the Director (Patterson) to the fact that they passed respectively for  $12\frac{1}{2}$  and  $6\frac{1}{4}$  cents—i.e. *bits* and *half-bits* of the Mexican and Spanish dollars.

1841-O. The problem of alleged half and quarter eagle coinages is solved thus:

|           |        |        |
|-----------|--------|--------|
|           | \$5.00 | \$2.50 |
| Jan. 1841 | 6300   |        |
| Feb.      | 2000   |        |
| Aug.      | 50     | 7380   |

The 1840 dies were not destroyed until Feb. 27, 1841; the time of arrival of the 1841 dies is not known but is believed to have been around then. It is therefore quite probable that the Jan. and Feb. deliveries were dated 1840. It is, however, just as probable that 50 half-eagles and all the quarter eagles were dated 1841 (the August delivery) since the Coiner would not be likely to hold over a shipment of coined gold for six or seven



months after it was struck. He was responsible for it, and it would seem that he would want to get it out of his hair and into the Treasurer's hands, having it entered to his credit in the bullion journal. A half-eagle was reported by one Speice a good many years ago in the *Numismatist*. The reverse was supposed to be the same as 1840-O—(quite plausible, since ordinarily only new obverses were sent to the branch mints each year, reverses only on requisition to replace worn out or broken dies).

#### 1845-O Quarter Eagles.

These were struck by January 22, 1846 from the 1845 dies. The 1846 obverses only arrived Jan. 24. Only 4000 were coined, plus four reserved for assay which accounts for the scarcity of this date.

#### 1849-O Quarter Dollars.

This is a more difficult problem not yet completely solved. The best estimate perhaps would place the number at 16,000. None were struck in 1849, and the 1849 dies were defaced April 1, 1850. The 1850 dies arrived some time before April 5—exact date unknown. Coinage reports are missing for the first two months, but no quarter dollars were then reserved for assay, which indicated either no coinage or else only "specimens". In March only half-dollars were reported as coined. No other coinage figures are extant before July. The Mint closed on or about April 13, from (among other things) lack of a Treasurer and it is possible that some kind of hold-over took place. The next we hear of quarter dollars is when the Mint reopened in July. First delivery July 8, 16,000. The complete reports from July to December are not extant, so it is yet impossible to determine (by subtracting these from the 1850 calendar year totals) the amount of previous coin-

age which was presumably dated 1849. This problem will not be completely solved until the bullion journals or missing reports are located.

#### 1853-O Coinage without arrows.

The number is unknown but certainly included 160,000 half-dimes (more than the Philadelphia coinage). It is very probable that many of these were melted as being worth more than face after the Act of 1853. 1000 old = 1074 new. The dies of 1853 without arrows (two obverses of each denomination below the silver dollar) arrived January 11, 1853. There was no coinage reported in the first six months except the 160,000 half-dimes in March. The dies without arrows were destroyed May 31, the dies with arrows having been received on and after April 29. No half-dollars or dimes without arrows were reserved for assay, indicating a very small coinage. They were all probably struck the first two weeks in May and reported among the July issues—though this is not definitely known, nor will it be until the bullion journals of this branch are recovered. The new coinage with arrows began July 7 and about a half-million of each denomination were struck in the one month.

1879-O. Regarding the twelve silver dollar proofs made to commemorate reopening of this branch February 20, 1879, I may say that there is one of these in the Philadelphia Mint Collection, which is as much a proof as the 1838 Dollar and 1849 double eagle. I would say it was made in Philadelphia but for the mint mark O. The first delivery of silver dollars in 1879 was of 10000 made February 27, 1879. It may be mentioned that the New Orleans branch is known to have had a hydraulic press and this press is known to have been there before 1869, although when it was made is completely a mystery.

# GOLD AND SILVER COINAGE REVISION

The fact just mentioned, plus the other fact that the Coiner's Dept. in each branch mint regularly finished, hardened and adapted dies for the individual coining presses, and on the recommendation of A. L. Snowden (Phila. Coiner since 1866) used polish on the dies to strike coins bright. It would presumably not have taken too much additional trouble to produce a mirror like finish; many of the coiners in the branch mints having had experience in Philadelphia knew how to do this.

## Dahlonega.

until

The monthly reports of coinage sent to Philadelphia indicate no revision is required in published figures. The 1866 gold dollars reported for 1860 certainly did not include any dated 1861. This 1860 figure is a calendar year figure based on the monthly reports sent to Philadelphia during that year. This branch mint struck half-eagles only during January and February 1861 and nothing after the Confederacy took over April 8. Assay coins included two half-eagles and no gold dollars. This branch mint was in constant touch with Philadelphia until April 8, long after the defection of New Orleans, and no other coinage was noted. The gold dollar dies for 1861 (two dated reverses) had been sent December 10, 1860 and had arrived with the others by January 7, 1861. Consequently, the only conclusion that can be arrived at is that the Confederacy struck the gold dollars just as they struck 887 half-eagles at Charlotte and several millions in gold and silver at New Orleans all from dies of the U. S. The reason why the number of gold dollars of

1861-D is unknown lies in the simple fact that the bullion journals and other books of the Dahlonega Mint have not been located since the Civil War and it is suspected that they are being held by private parties in the South.

## Charlotte Mint

Coinage operations started on March 28, 1838. No deliveries are recorded in the bullion journals in the first quarter. The published figures ever since the 1838 Director's Report indicate 1900 more half-eagles struck. There is no way of accounting for this. The bullion journal figures I have summarized below correct a number of erroneous impressions formerly circulated as facts. One of the most frequent errors was the inclusion in coins Released of pieces actually reserved for assay. This error comes from a defective bookkeeping procedure which credited Gold Coinage, not Coiner's account of Gold with pieces reserved for assay. This procedure was apparently corrected after 1843.

|      |                                      |   |
|------|--------------------------------------|---|
|      | \$5.00                               | \$2½                                    |
| 1838 | 10959                                | 7880                                    |
|      |                                      | In all cases not including assay-pieces |
| 1839 | 23425                                | 18140                                   |
| 1840 | 1970                                 |   |
|      | Broad mill,<br>Struck by March 9     | 12822                                   |
|      | 17022                                |   |
|      | Regular type.<br>In and after April. |   |

The explanation for the above:

There was a letter from the Director to the Superintendent of the Charlotte Mint, Feb. 6, 1840, enclosing quarter-eagle dies and saying. "In the half-eagle dies sent to you on the 24th ult. your Coiner will notice that the border is



# GOLD AND SILVER COINAGE REVISION

left wide and deep.\* To produce the proper effect upon the coinage, it is necessary that he should cut the planchets larger than usual so that the milling may be very heavy. I will thank you to call his attention to this circumstance."

R.M.P.

D. \_\_\_\_\_

To

Col. Jno. H. Wheeler

Supt.

\*The border is, in fact, too deep and we have found it necessary in consequence to make a very deep milling. In the next dies this fault will be corrected.

The exact date of shipment of those "next dies" is unknown, but is believed not to long postdate the delivery of that letter. The same variation is seen in Philadelphia half eagles of 1840 the "broad mill" being observed on a few proofs, including the Mint Collection and the Woodin specimens. The above is a genuine major variety.

|      | \$5.00 | \$2.50 |
|------|--------|--------|
| 1841 | 21467  | 10281  |
| 1842 | 27432  | 6729   |
| 1843 | 44268  | 26064  |
| 1844 | 23631  | 11622  |

Mint burned July 27; closed accounts Dec. 1844; resumed coinage Oct. 1846.

|         |   |      |
|---------|---|------|
| 1846    | 12995                                   | 4808 |
| 1847-53 | No problems; coinage figures confirmed. |      |
| 1854    | 39283                                   | 7295 |

and NO gold dollars.

The published coinage figures erroneously gave out that 39,291 half-eagles and 4 gold dollars were issued. This problem is solved as follows: Bullion Journal 1854. Item in Profit and Loss Account for \$44; for 8 half-eagles and 4 gold dollar assay coins lost in their transmission to Philadelphia, March 1853. These were evidently for the annual assay to be held in Feb. 1854 at which time the loss came to light and was entered in the Bullion Journals. You

will also note that the total of 1854 half-eagles differs by exactly 8 from the totals in the Director's Reports. Undoubtedly the difference of 8 comes from those same assay-coins.

There are no further problems until 1855-60. 1861 Under the United States of America:

Feb. 1700 half-eagles  
Mar. 2248 half-eagles  
Apr. 2044 Half eagles Covers period  
April 1-18  
Total 5992 Coined by the United States

The Confederacy took over April 20. Bullion Journal no longer refers to Charlotte as "U. S. Branch Mint" but simply as "Branch Mint, Charlotte, No. Ca." Was it regarded as a branch mint of New Orleans?

Under the Confederacy:

May 887 Half Eagles (Director's report of 6879 includes these CSA pieces—5992 plus 887 equals 6879.)

The above Confederate coinage from U. S. dies was taken up by error in the Director's report, though like the millions issued at New Orleans after the rebels seized the mint in January 1861, it was not issued under the authority of the United States. The Charlotte Branch closed operations Sept.-Oct. 1861. No more reported on the books as having been coined and some thousands in gold bullion were returned to depositors uncoined (conjecture—were the dies worn out?) Twelve half-eagles were returned to Philadelphia for assay presumably from the Feb.-April deliveries paid for out of Contingent Expenses, per order of the Governor of N. C. There is no record of any previous assay-coins sent to Philadelphia and this was evidently a regular part of the yearly close of operations. Twelve 1861-C half eagles were tested by the Assay Commission in Feb. 1862, said to have been from the Feb.-Apr. Charlotte coinage.

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## WESTERN BRANCH MINTS

## Carson City

Extant monthly reports (and they are not complete) confirm published figures on gold and silver coins 1870-93 so far as seen. There are relatively few problems in this series. One is the 1873 arrows versus no arrows coinage and how it divided.

The dies without arrows were received Nov. 9, 1872. Dies with arrows (obverses) were received March 31 to be used on and after April 1, 1873. Delivery figures for silver of the first three months are complete, and they indicate that the silver coinage divides as follows:

|            | Dollars | Half<br>Dols. | Quarters | Dimes  |
|------------|---------|---------------|----------|--------|
| No. arrows | 2300    | 102,500       | 4,000    | 12,400 |
| Arrows     | —       | 234,560       | 12,462   | 18,791 |

The above, of course, does not include assay-pieces. The most surprising figure is the dimes, and no explanation readily arises. No monthly coinage reports sent from Carson are extant covering the period of the 1876 twenty-cent piece. Five were reserved for assay in March only. There were thirty reserved in 1875, which shows the approximate ratio. One monthly coinage account-book prepared in Washington says 2000 (recorded as dollars) evidently this was the source of the figure in the Director's Report. There is every reason to believe that many if not most were recoined when the denomination was discontinued, like the proofs in Philadelphia. Judging by the fate of the 12,400 dimes mentioned above, it is not hard to believe that a similar event happened to these far more unpopular coins.

## San Francisco

Operations started April 3, 1854. The 1854-S coinage reports are correct as published. The Mint collection has a brilliant proof 1854-S double-eagle; only

one I ever heard of. The first silver was coined March 1855. The first half dollar struck was sent to Philadelphia and is now in the Mint Collection. It is a brilliant proof. The main trouble in starting gold coinage was the difficulty of procuring parting acids in order to separate enough of silver from the gold deposits to make them of the standard required by law. California gold averaged 888 parts gold to 108 parts silver and traces of other metals; the law required 900 parts gold to not over 50 parts silver and 50 parts copper, ranging to 900 gold and 100 copper. The Mint's gold usually contained from 33 to 50 parts silver in the thousand to give the alloy a good color.

## 1858-S quarter eagles

All the 1200 reported were coined before Jan. 19, 1858. The 1858-S dies arrived long afterwards—sent from Philadelphia March 4. Therefore this alleged coinage was dated 1857.

## 1861-S

The Fecht gift to ANS contains a double-eagle of this date and mint with a reverse (as on AW281) designed by A. C. Paquet, Mintmarked S. This piece was illustrated in the March 1937 Numismatist P 199. It was found in a hoard in Hull, Texas. About this coinage I have the following information: The San Francisco branch reopened for coinage Jan. 10, 1861. Previously the Supt. had complained of trouble in hardening and adapting to the presses the new double-eagle reverse (this Paquet die). And then a letter of Feb. 9, 1861: "I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 5th ulto., 'overland' which however did not come to hand until the 2nd inst. I was, therefore, unable to prevent the striking and issuing of a large number of Double



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Eagles coined with the new die. The amount coined was \$385,000."

The "favor" referred to was undoubtedly the order (like that sent about the same time to the New Orleans Mint) for the branch mint to use the old \$20.00 reverse and not the new one—an error in diameter had occurred at the Philadelphia Mint and the pieces struck would be almost impossible to make to stack, because of the excessively narrowmilling. From the preceding it seems that there were actually issued:

|                              |         |        |
|------------------------------|---------|--------|
| Paquet reverse               | \$20.00 | 19250  |
| (Smallest coinage 1854-1907) |         |        |
| Regular reverse              |         | 748750 |

1866-S. Coins with and without motto. The dies with motto IN GOD WE TRUST were sent March 16, 1866 and received in San Francisco April 14, on April 16 more (especially more obverses) were requisitioned. Coinage reports are as follow:

|           | \$20   | \$10 | \$5   | 50 cents |
|-----------|--------|------|-------|----------|
| January   | 15750  |      |       |          |
| February  | 38000  | 8500 | 9000  |          |
| March     | 66250  |      |       | 60000    |
| April     | 48750  | 5500 | 10920 |          |
| May       | 104250 |      | 9000  | 10000    |
| June      | 51750  | 6000 | 5000  |          |
| July-Dec. | 517500 | —    | 10000 | 984000   |

All the quarter dollars were struck in August. All the monthly reports were dated the end of the month, and no divisions are recorded. Consequently, the gold coin divisions into with and without motto are subject to the possibility of a small error from possible inclusion with the latter of any no-motto coins struck in the first 14 days of April. The only way for certainty on this point to exist would be for the bullion journals of San Francisco Mint for that period to be located.

My tentative division:

|           | \$20   | \$10  | \$5   | 50 cents |
|-----------|--------|-------|-------|----------|
| No Motto: | 120000 | 8500  | 9000  | 60000    |
| Motto:    | 722250 | 11500 | 34920 | 994000   |

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## 1870-S

The 3000 gold dollars were all struck in May 1870. Either they were made between May 28 and May 31 or the mintmarks were put in by the Coiner as on the \$3.00 pieces. There is also a big question whether some may not have been released WITHOUT mintmark by this branch.

The following documents explain:

Telegram received Philadelphia  
5/14/70.

LETTER, OMITTED ON ONE DOLLAR AND THREE DOLLAR DIES SENT TO THIS BRANCH FOR THIS YEAR. 2000 PIECES COINED CAN THEY BE ISSUED

O H LAGRANGE SUPT

Letter from L. to Philadelphia May 27, 1870:

Sir: I enclose herewith receipt of Wells Fargo & Co. for one dollar and three dollar dies which were yesterday forwarded to you at Philadelphia. It is proper to state that our Coiner cut the letter S on the three dollar die after it was received here for the purpose of stamping a single piece to be put into the casket for the cornerstone of our new mint building. Only one piece was struck under my direction for the purpose above stated. (Signed) O. H. Lagrange, Supt. Hon. James Pollock, Dir.

Note that this Supt. does not mention or even hint at any duplicate being struck for any other purpose; yet we know that the Coiner J. B. Harmstead did make one other, which appeared in the Woodin collection. A letter of May 28 acknowledges receipt of two \$1.00 silver reverses, two \$3.00 and two \$1.00 gold reverses. Neither the \$3.00 nor the \$1.00 silver were ever accounted for in coinage reports. No silver dollars particularly,

were reserved for assay, which indicates either that they were made at Philadelphia (not very probable) or that the coinage was a "specimen" one of exceedingly small size.

#### 1873-S

Dies for silver without arrows arrived Nov. 16, 1872. The arrows dies arrived April 12, 1873. In January and March, no silver coinage. But in February, though the coinage report is unlocated it is on record that one Silver Dollar, one Half Dollar and 33 half-dimes were reserved for assay. These were, therefore, 1873-S dated issues. The fewness of assay-coins of the \$1.00 and 50 cents in-

dicates an extra small coinage, and we know that there were only 700 dollars. The complete coinage reports by months for 1873 half-dollars are not extant to my knowledge, so it is not possible to ascertain the February half dollar coinage by subtracting the sum of the later ones from the published total. This problem, again can be solved only when the missing report or the bullion journals are located.

There is no historical background for the half and quarter dollars coinages of 1878-S; all were made in February. Neither is there any for the 24 dimes of 1894-S; they were reported in June, without comment.

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NB 43:2 below.

43: 1874 670 93°  
 2 68° 99°  
 3 30° 13°  
 4 30° 13°  
 5 30° 13°  
 6 30° 13°  
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 100 30° 13°

1874 + 75 RI DIES  
 DOT OR TO THEFT  
 MRX b. < 1900 - IN MINT <  
 1836 8/75  
 RWJ " T CASE OF THE DISAPPEARING CENT  
 NUM 5/72:428-30  
 T M. LTRS 1835-8 NSM 4/66:7758  
 SUPT DR JOSEPH T. SINGLETON  
 DAVID H. MASON BROUGHT W/ HIM  
 2 PCS  
 1835 D & 5 DIES 1/26/  
 4/17/38 [80] \$5 ONE TO PATTERSON  
 (IN SI?) [29,583]  
 1839 \$5 4/10-14 [18939] \$2 1/2 [13674] { 5467  
 40 2/22 2528 \$2 1/2 3532 [41 23] { 4924  
 " 1909 4161  
 4 4/14 1975  
 2 6/10 1887  
 5 8/16 2505  
 66 1347  
 N 9/23 1118  
 U " 1383  
 M 12/10 2380  
 10 30 2214  
 3 22890  
 1 1841  
 6 [416+] 4/30

Misc. NB's.

6.164-5 Auc '85.

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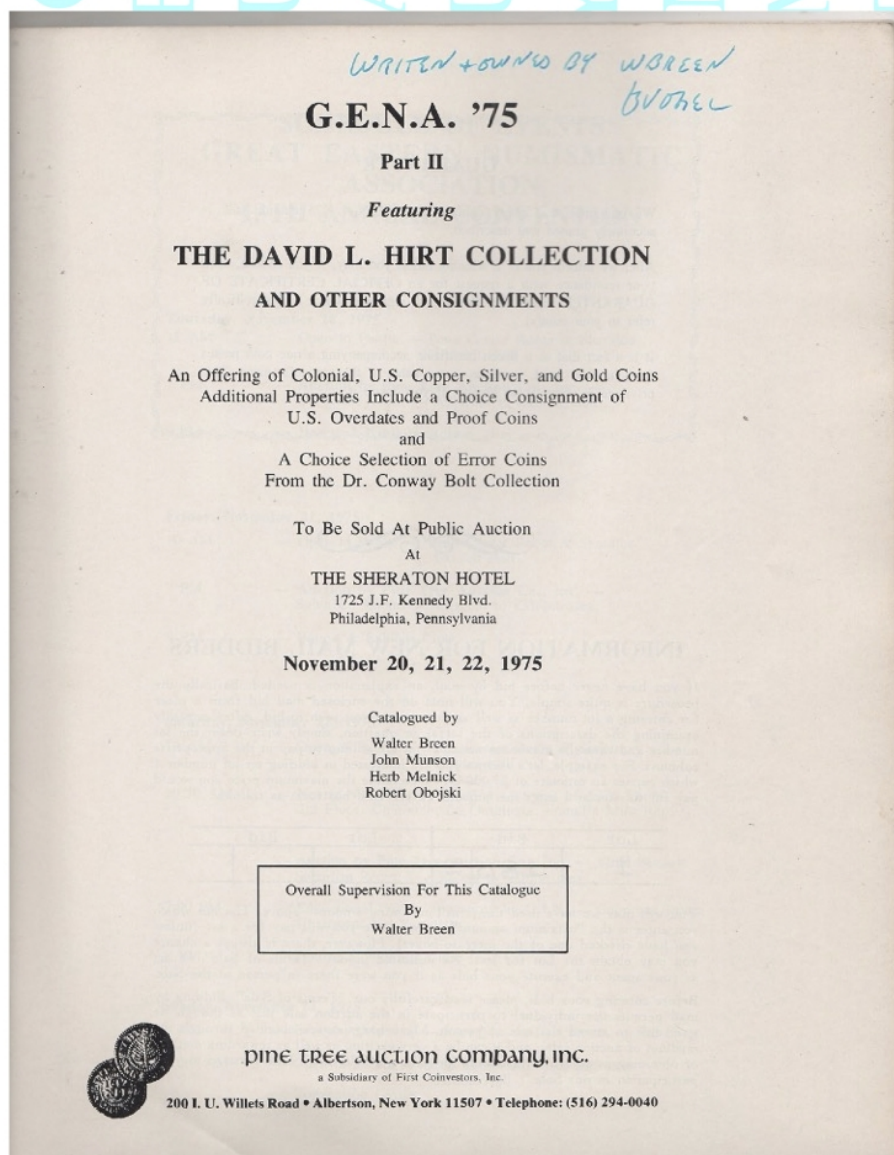
50  
Auc 85: 90 - MCMV1 Umm. high  
7/25-7/85 21 months old  
S - NEALY - \$26,000  
1804 137 922 922 of av? +10%  
1749 \$19,000 + 10%  
27RS 204 (Invent) : 677 \$19,000  
678 8000 + 10%  
1797 1/2 "A" no die hup, @ K ex head Hinn  
758 942, 1000 +  
183 512 (P) 60 : ex E  
918 - \$9,000  
45 CILU : 923 ex E \$42,000 +  
75 212 (P) 927 : 17,000 +  
50 3 ex E : 934 29,000 +  
75 : ACgt : 936 9,000 +  
29 40 55 Bums 94 95,000 +  
57 70 " E : 948 38,000 +  
58 10 40 : 958 55,000  
60 U E : 959 23,000  
83 0 2 : 963 4,000  
" F : 964 1,000  
07 10 Wm : 967 16,000  
" : 968 38,000  
supposed from Cap North

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1824  
A 20  
A

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560 of 974 20500 +  
75 978 42000 +  
83 - E 980 62000 +  
84 - E 981 58000 +  
21 U 989 13000 +  
Kelly 10 Aug 995 72500 +  
51 12 60000 VF: 1021 26000 +  
51 XW 1000 CHS 1022 26000 +  
71 CC 1000 of 1135 12000 +  
51 8000 U : 1265 10,500 +  
705 10000 VF : 1270 13,500 +  
22 1000 1277 13,500 +  
56 1000 1367 11,500 +  
610 1000 1384 7,000 +  
41 2 1000 1419 11,500  
205 1000 1481 21,000  
205 20 U - 1491 10,000  
29 20 U 1496 10,000 H  
1498 9,000



WB's annotated G.E.N.A. P.T.A. 11/1975.



- 1472 **1888. B-2, UNITED double. Brilliant, frosty, choice Unc.**, a couple of tiny spots in r. obv. field and r. rev. dentilated border, probably in the strip from which this planchet was cut, and therefore not to be considered as a defect inflicted after striking. (Photo)

## FIVE DOLLAR GOLD

- 1473 **1799. High VF to EF** in sharpness with shallowly granular surfaces.  
Loop removed and a small V-shaped piece taken from edge in the process.
- 1474 **1800. Loop removed, and slightly warped, sharpness of VF, slightly granular appearance** due to buffeting from wear as a pendant.
- 1475 **1800. Breen I-B (R-4). Extremely Fine**, much mint lustre, granular surfaces, plain small nick left of lower part of cap, other bag marks too minute to require description. Finer than the Gilhousen coin, or than Breen I (1974) lot 141 at \$1000. (Photo)  
Rev. 6th star (below F) plainly recut.

## RARE VARIETY

- 1476 **1802/1. B. 2-F (nearly R-7). Obv. Ex. Fine**, lustrous, granular, with light bag marks; **rev. AU and brilliant, with full breast feathers**, with many adjustment marks, mostly near borders. Two light touchstone marks at edge above 7th and 8th stars. Almost identical in quality with Breen I 142 (except for different location of adjustment marks), and Gibson 110 at \$1,700, but there are very few auction records of this variety for obvious reasons. Possibly Beck 343 at \$2,100. (Photo)  
High date (2 touches bust), 1 left of center of 2; broken bases of T's, same die as 1803 rev.-C after first cracks but before regrounding.
- 1477 **1803/2. B. 1-C (R-4). Extremely Fine**, obv. not as sharp as rev., much mint lustre on both sides. Light rev. adjustment marks; usual uneven strike. Equal to lot 351, Merkin Nov. 1965 sale, Ruby II 1143 (at \$1,900) and Beck 350 at \$2,100, but **finer than most others offered from these dies in recent years.** (Photo)  
Crack through middle of TED.
- 1478 **1809/8. Only the one variety: Brilliant AU**; light adjustment marks on most of rev. borders, above average strike. Small cluster of bag marks in left obv. field. Well above average for this date, which generally comes VF. (Photo)  
Light cracks at base of date and left stars, overdate still fairly plain, double rev. clash marks.
- 1479 **1812. B. 1-B (R-2). Wide 5 D. Brilliant Unc.**, free of noticeable bag marks, few light adjustment marks on upper rev. border. As fine as any offered in some years except for the Chapman, Beck, Breen II 360 example. (Photo)
- 1480 **1812. B. 1-B, wide 5 D. Lustrous About Unc., rev. sharper than obv.**, not as well struck up in centers as elsewhere; light adjustment marks on wings and part of shield, shallow field mark before lower lip exactly as on the Chapman-Beck-Breen II 360 piece and from the same piece of foreign matter adhering to the die. Few minute scattered handling marks on either side. Distinctly finer than Breen II 363. Identical twin of Ruby I 1795A. (Photo)
- 1481 **1812. B. 1-B. Wide 5 D. A third.** Obtained as "Ch. AU," this is somewhat better than Ex. Fine, lustrous,

ous, with numerous light rev. adjustment marks. Fewer bag marks than usual; couple of tiny rim nicks on either side. Very similar overall to lot 509, Greater NY sale. (Photo)

- 1482 **1820. Square based 2, large letters. B. 2-B (almost or quite R-6). Sharpness of Ex. Fine**, bold, attractive despite several plain rim and edge nicks; slight edge damage at very top, though no trace of solder. **NO OTHER SPECIMEN FROM THESE DIES AUCTIONED IN SOME YEARS**; "more difficult to find than quite a few others rated as R6," as we said when we catalogued this as lot 542, Suburban Washington sale. Earlier, ex Golden II 1968. (Photo)  
Last star firmly touches curl; base of E above T-S; middle lines of most stripes weak.

## CLASSIC HEAD TYPE

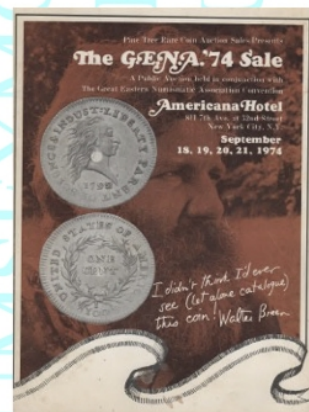
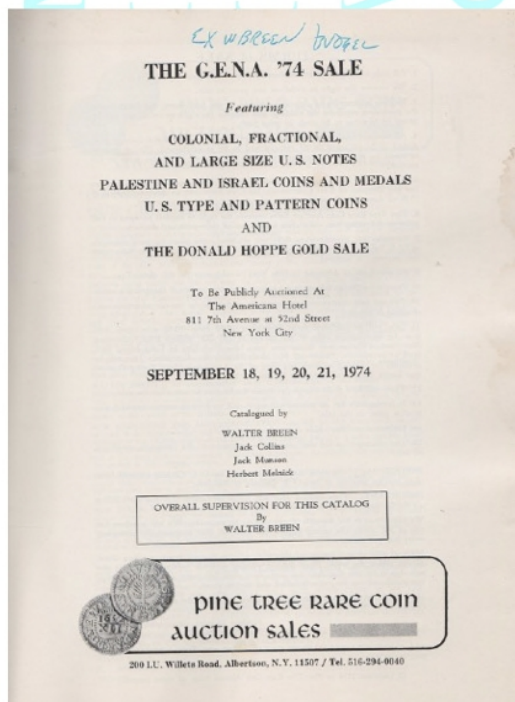
- 1483 **1834. Plain 4. First head (large wide truncation). B. II-1. VF plus, rev. more like EF**, some lustre. Curved date, rather widely spaced. Rev. A's clear of wing and arrow.
- 1484 **1834. Another B. II-1. Very Fine**, normal compliment of minor bag marks.
- 1485 **1834. Plain 4. First head. B. II-4. Sharpness of Extremely Fine** with traces of prooflike surface. Rev. rim nicked opposite I of AMERICA. Quite a nice appearing coin overall.  
Closely spaced date, 8 4 low; A joins arrow; cracks at third through sixth stars.
- 1486 **1834. Another B. II-4. Very Fine** with traces of lustre. No outstanding nicks, scratches or bruises.
- 1487 **1834. Second head. B. II-9. Very Fine**, quite a bit of lustre, a couple of obv. pin scratches and light rim damage.  
Triple cut four. Rev. arrow joins A.
- 1488 **1834. Another B. II-9. Very Fine**, traces of lustre. A few tiny nicks on rev. rim, no other outstanding handling marks.
- 1489 **1834. A third B. II-9. Fine/Very Fine**, expected minor handling marks.
- 1490 **1835. B. II. Very Fine**, normal compliment of handling marks for this grade.  
Rev. leaf runs into base of U.
- 1491 **1836. B-4. Good/VG**, rev. sharpest, normal light handling marks.  
Date with tail 1 and rather closely spaced. Rev. first A in AMERICA barely free of wing, final A distant from arrowhead.
- 1492 **1836. B-5. Extremely Fine** and semi-prooflike especially obverse, only minor, unimportant handling marks. A lovely specimen of this **very rare variety**. Tail 1 in date ("large date"). Rev. widely spaced 5 D, the period after D too low, a berry in branch.
- 1493 **1836. Another B-5. Very Fine**, some traces of lustre, usual wear on obv. high points, and a few faint rim nicks.
- 1494 **1836. A third B-5. Fine**, no outstanding handling marks just the uniform even wear of the grade.
- 1495 **1836. B-7 (R-7). Lustrous About Unc.**, minute bag marks, not too sharply struck up on some curls; finest seen of this variety to date, considerably better than Breen I 156 (VF). Obtained as—would you believe "Choice Unc." (Photo)  
Small wide date, short 1; rev. B-5, the die later reappearing as 1838 B-1.



U.S. HALF EAGLES

- 1496    **1837.** Sharpness of **Very Fine**, quite a bit of lustre, especially reverse; claims to higher grade (called weakly struck EF/AU, by former owner). Scarcer than generally believed and less frequently seen than 1836 Half Eagles in all grades.
- 1497    **1837. Very Fine.** Far fewer bag marks than normally found on a coin of this grade.
- 1498    **1837.** Another example. Fine to Very Fine.
- 1499    **1838. B-2. Ex. Fine.** Traces of original mint lustre underneath the toned surface.
- 1500    **1838.** Another example. Fine.
- 1501    **1838-D. Ex. Fine** and well struck for this mint, faintly nicked in a couple of places about obv. rim. Mintage only 13,674. Struck in the first year the Dahlonega Mint was open and the only Classic Head Half Eagle with the D mintmark. A lovely example of this elusive rarity. **(Photo)**
- 1502    No lot.

WB's copy G.E.N.A. P.T.A.  
9/1974.



**CAPPED DRAPED BUST, LIBERTY FACING LEFT  
ROUND CAP-SMALLER EAGLE-VALUE 5-D.  
USED FOR FIRST TIME 1807-1812  
Diameter 25 mm; Reeded edge**

1902 1807. B. 5-D, the rev. of 1808. **Brilliant AU**, minute bag marks, well struck; one plain scratch in cap, another in curls. About equal to Miles 340. **(Photo) (\$2,200.-up)**



- 1903 1808. Normal date, about evenly spaced. B. 4-A. **Low R-6**  
Ex. **Fine** or better, sharp strike, lustrous, but with  
several small plain edge nicks. Even so, finer than Ruby  
lot 1794. (Photo) (\$1,600.-up)
- 1904 1810. B. 1-A. Large date and 5 D. **About Unc.**, plus, bril-  
liantly lustrous, nearly though not quite free of bug  
marks; local border weakness, probably as made, with  
a few faint hairlines. **One of the nicest early half eagles**  
we've ever had the pleasure to offer. One for type col-  
lectors. (Photo) (\$3,000.-up)
- 1905 1810. Another, B. 1-A, this one **nearly EF** with some  
lustre, usual bag marks and several small plain edge  
nicks. (\$1,800.-up)
- 1906 1812. B. 1-B. Wide 5-D. **Barely Ex. Fine**, traces of lustre,  
light adjustment marks at left rev., granular surfaces,  
parts of edge receding weak but apparently from natural  
causes, possibly as made. (\$1,800.-up)

**CAPPED BUST LIBERTY FACING LEFT-LARGER HEAD**  
1813-1834

Diameter 25 mm; Reeded edge

- 1907 1813. B. 1-B, the variety not in the original monograph,  
die of lot 149, our Walter Breen sale; identifiable by  
first S beginning above center of E in motto. **Bright,**  
**lustrous AU**, fewer bag marks than usual, several faint  
obv. hairline scratches. **Very rare**, still well up into  
Rarity 6 level. Probably the most difficult of all U.S.  
gold designs to locate in acceptable condition, with the  
possible exceptions of the 1796 No Stars and 1808  
quarter eagles. (Photo) (\$3,000.-up)

**Extremely Rare 1825/21**

- 1908 1825/21. B. 2-A. Ex. **Fine** or better, mostly sharply  
struck, cleaned and somewhat dull; minute rim nick  
below 2, another almost midway between 13th star  
and 5. Of about the same condition level as the Shapero,  
"Cicero" and Melish coins, but we have not been able  
to trace a pedigree of this one. The date has recently  
come into its own; this one is bound to go well into  
five figures. (Photo) (\$10,000.-up)

**Excessively Rare 1826**

- 1909 1826. B-1. **Extremely Fine**, sharply struck, few scattered  
light bug marks, cleaned long ago. Similar in quality  
to Miles 358 (the latter has somewhat softer hair). **Ex-**  
**cellent example of this very rare date**, none offered in  
recent years in any condition, the handful of uncir-  
culateds seem to have found their way into museums,  
estates, or permanent collections. Ex Dr. Conway Bolt  
coll., lot 920; earlier, possibly ex. G. H. Hall 1896.  
(latter undecidable, as the coin illustrated over that lot  
was the Randall-Parmelee-Steigerwalt-Wooding-Jenks-  
Newcomer-Col. Green-Farouk proof). Judging by the  
performances of dates like 1823 in recent years, this  
one will go well up into five figures. (Photo) (\$14,000.-up)

**CLASSIC HEAD-LIBERTY FACING LEFT**  
**NO MOTTO ON REVERSE**

1834-1838

Diameter 22.5 mm; Reeded edge

- 1910 1834. **No Motto**. First head; wide rounded bust, large  
plain 4. Breen II-1 (low Rarity-3). **Borderline almost**  
**Uncirculated**, highly lustrous surfaces retaining some

faint traces of the original prooflike gloss. A mediocre  
strike, as often seen on this date, as some details are  
needle-sharp, others weaker, such as individual hair  
curls and eagle's feathers. The splendid, frosty surfaces  
are virtually free of all but the most minuscule signs of  
handling. Late state: cracks from wing tips to borders.  
An excellent example of the Type. (Photo)

(\$800.-1,100.)

- 1911 1834. **No Motto**. Same dies as last, similar die state. **Ex-**  
**remely Fine**, somewhat lustrous, with a hint of proof-  
like gloss. Surfaces rather clean and attractive, far  
above average. (\$600.-750.)

- 1912 1834. **No Motto**. Second Head, Type of 1835, narrow end  
of bust, small plain 4. Breen II-9 (triple-cut 4, reverse  
of B. II-6, recut Ss). **Extremely Fine**, all details very  
sharp and clear, save for curl above and left of ear,  
otherwise this would almost demand a grade nearer to  
Almost Uncirculated. Highly lustrous surfaces, display-  
ing mint bloom within and around the devices. A very  
attractive and impressive coin for either a date or Type  
collector. (\$550.-750.)

- 1913 1835. First head: Narrow, short end of truncation. Small  
1 in date. Rev. Same die as 1834 Breen II-10, leaf  
distant from U. Breen-1 (Low Rarity-3). **Extremely**  
**Fine**, somewhat lustrous and prooflike, not too boldly  
impressed on some curls and stars, and on eagle's wing  
feathers. Far above average. (\$450.-575.)

- 1914 1835. First head as last; small 1 in date. Rev. leaf touches  
base of U. B-2 (Rarity-4). **Extremely Fine**, though  
with the usual soft striking characteristics mentioned  
above. Surfaces minutely granular from microscopic,  
though rather extensive signs of handling. Scarce.  
(\$400.-525.)

- 1915 1835. Second head, similar to 1936-7; tall 1 in date. Not  
in the original monograph, but could be called B-8;  
obv. B-4, rev. the die of 1836 B-2; N filled, arrow  
touches A; cracks from rim through wingtip and  
through bases of ATEs (the rev. of 1835 B-6, de-  
scribed in our Walter Breen sale last March). Ex. **Fine**,  
traces of lustre, scattered light bag marks. **Very rare**,  
**high R-6**, possibly **borderline R-7**. (Photo) (\$450.-600.)

- 1916 1836. Large date, tall 1. B-5. Rev. same die later used for  
1838 B-1; die of "Cicero" 120. **Fine**, some details of  
**VF sharpness**, others weaker; many minute to light bag  
marks. **Very rare**, probably **high R-6**. (\$225.-275.)

- 1917 1837. Small Date; Head of 1835. B-3 (**high Rarity-6**).  
**Extremely Fine** or thereabouts, the generous splashes  
of mint lustre suggestive of a higher grade, but weakly  
struck in center. Identifiable by a short scratch at  
mouth, but no other really visible impairments; really  
quite attractive. Unlisted die crack through tops of  
AME to rim over R. **Very rare variety**, rarest of the  
year, prohibitively difficult to find choice; most speci-  
mens are well worn. Comparable to the example in our  
"Walter Breen" sale last March. An important Type  
coin! (\$350.-450.)

- 1918 1838. B-1. Compact small 5, broad leaves, heavy claws,  
large arrowheads, TES closely spaced. **Extremely Fine**,  
rather sharply struck, displaying rich, vivid golden-  
orange patina; somewhat lustrous. The usual quota of  
light surface nicks, including a few upon rims. Com-  
parable to Gilhousen 367. (\$400.-525.)

**\$5 CHARLOTTE GOLD**

- 1974 **1838-C. B-2.** Small C mintmark above the date. **Very Fine**, the rev. somewhat lustrous, though obv. cleaned. State II: die lapped removing berry from between rev. leaves. **The first Charlotte Mint half eagle**; only 17,179 struck. **(\$1,200.-1,500.)**
- 1975 **1838-C.** Same dies as last, B-2, earlier state: with berry. **Nearly Very Fine**, some areas sharper, others weaker, the surfaces peppered with its full quota of minute bag marks. **(\$1,505.-1,300.)**

- 2026 **1838-D.** Classic Head. Only the one variety; rather late die state, the recuttings at date and ST still visible, but with the clash marks from beak below Ms. Liberty's jaw, and the cracks at AMERICA. **Partly brilliant borderline AU, excellent sharp strike**, but with some minute handling marks including a couple of rim nicks on either side, the traces of old cleaning in upper rev. field. **Very far above average for this rare and elusive issue, and quite possibly in the Condition Census**; finest we have handled, though at least one is reported in mint state, and a couple others are borderline, such as that in the "Winter" sale at \$2,500. The present piece is the twin of that in the R. L. Miles collection, and **finer than most others offered in the last ten years.** Ex George Walton coll. lot 2142. **(Photo)** **(\$3,000.-up)**



Bell II 582 and Beck 366, finer than many others offered in recent years. Ex F.C.C. Boyd, WGC 345, finally Stack's June Sale (June 1973), lot 1099. (Photo)

Date spaced 1 807; "ghost" leaf at C. Rim break over T of UNITED but none of the later breaks.

- 348 1807. Large date and stars. B. 4-C (R-5). Obv. AU or better, weakly struck on a granularly defective planchet—the weak areas are mostly at profile and forelock. Rev. Brilliant Unc., choice, free of visible handling marks, frosty, though weakly struck in central areas, revealing many adjustment marks. Overall can be graded as Borderline Unc. Excellent match for WGC 349; no equal one auctioned in many years. Rare, seldom offered in any grade. (Photo) Double cut 1 0.

CAPPED DRAPED BUST, LIBERTY FACING LEFT  
ROUND CAP—SMALLER EAGLE—1807-1812

GEM 1807



- 349 1807. Bust left. B. 5-D. (R-2) Brilliant Unc., lovely surfaces really justifying the grade of "Gem Unc." with which this came. Purplish toning on part of cap; tiny spot between wing tip and A (in the ingot from which the strip was rolled out to make this planchet). One of the best of these we have seen; suitable for a perfectionist type collector. In a class with the "Rio Rancho" coin at \$2,400. (Photo)

Rev. U close to leaf. (On the other and much rarer die, S-E, U is much farther from leaf, D close to wing, ES high, base of M below E, and a crack develops from E(S) down to eagle's head.)

- 350 1807. B. 5-D. Another, this one also brilliant, sharply struck and evidently never in circulation, but with one faint old scratch on cap, another in curls, rev. handling marks, and several tiny rim nicks. Ex lot 1902, our 1974 GENA sale, where hastily graded "Brilliant AU", changing hands at least twice since then, the last time regraded "BU PL" (though the surface is not prooflike). (Photo)

- 351 1808/7. B 2-A. (R-4) Obv. slightly short of AU, rev. well above that level. Lustrous, obv. with minor handling marks, rev. virtually free of them. Finer than Bell II 584, called "Nearly Unc.," or most others offered in recent years. (Photo)

Close overdate, 7 within 8, perfect dies.

- 352 1808. Normal date. B. 4-A (R-6). Marked "AU" this brilliant coin is of about that level but shows small plain rim dent above head, several tiny digs near F, and other more minor handling marks. Sharper than Bell II 585, called "Nearly Unc.," and overall rather similar to that in our 1974 GENA sale at \$1,850. Not many high grade ones are around, and for unknown reasons many of them are nicked up. (Photo)

Closely and evenly spaced date, rev. as following—5 D close together.

SUPERB AND CHOICE 1808



- 353 1808. Similar, but 5 D widely spaced. B. 4-B. (R-2) Brilliant frosty sharp Unc., rev. especially lovely and for all practical purposes free of handling marks, bag marks, etc., obv. with one very light pin scratch. Though this is often enough seen in lower grades, it is hard to find it's equal; the present coin is finer than Beck 374-5 or that in our Washington D.C. sale—or most others recently auctioned. Another for perfectionist type or date collectors. (Photo)

RARE AND CHOICE OVERDATE



- 354 1809/8. Full sharpness of Unc., lustrous and with fewer handling marks than usual, but something has been removed from above eagle's head with great skill. It is almost indistinguishable. Ex. lot 1152, Dr. Ruby coll., part III: (Photo)

Same dies as following, later state with more rust, but 8 still visible within 9 (it later becomes faint).



- 355 1809/8. Better than AU, brilliant, with very minor signs of handling, on rims and in fields, including a minute pin scratch before face. Much better than the Bell II, or Watson coins, among many others. Only the one variety; intermediate state, obv. rusted though not as severely so as on next lot; 8 still discernible within lower part of 9.

CHOICE 1810

- 356 1810. Large date, large 5. B. 1-A (R-2) Between AU and borderline Unc., a little nearer the latter; brilliant, choice for the grade, free of handling marks or of bag marks above the microscopic level, excellent surfaces; adjustment marks in central obv., as made; probably destined to be resold as "BU". The edge marks above S O are from light application to a touchstone, a common practice in those days when gold coins were valued by weight rather than by stated denomination. An unusually beautiful example for its grade. (Photo)

- 357 1810. Another. Large date and 5, same dies. Ex. Fine, even wear and very little of that, some lustre, excellent smooth surfaces, almost free of bag marks or handling marks. (Photo)

## RARE 1810 SMALL DATE

- 358 1810. Small date, tall S. B. 3-D Ex. Fine, much mint lustre, many light handling marks, one plain shallow rim dent on either side. **Extremely rare**, somewhat finer than Gilhousen 348, one of five or six seen to date. **All the 1810 Small Date coins are very rare. (Photo)**

(Not in original monograph): 12th star recut, without the cracks that come on the last impressions of obv. 2, and with cracks through base of date, inner points of 3rd to 5th stars, etc. Rev. same as the 1811 Tall 5. Die of Gilhousen 348 (R-7).

CHOICE 1812  
UNPUBLISHED DIE STATE

- 359 1812. Close "5 D." B. 1-A. (R-4, high) **Brilliant frosty Unc.**, well struck (sharper than Scanlon 2266), only the most minimal signs of handling. This was evidently displayed reverse up for decades in a velvet display tray, as there are two minutely rubbed points on obv., mentioned only for the sake of perfectionists; this is emphatically not a "commercial Unc." nor yet a "BU light rubbing" grade, but something very much better. Very few recent auction records; finer than lot 943, Greater NY Convention Sale last May. **(Photo)**

Unpublished late die state: double clash marks, many light rust patches; evidently struck after the commoner 1-B's.

## CHOICE 1812



- 360 1812. Wide "5 D." B. 1-B. (R-2) **Brilliant choice frosty Unc.**, a beauty; shallow field mark before lower lip, from foreign matter adhering to die (not a defect). **One for perfectionists.** Ex a Henry Chapman sale, lot 68, at \$15. **(Photo)**  
Less obv. rust than on the 1-A.
- 361 1812. B. 1-A, wide "5 D" as last. **Brilliant borderline Unc.**, well struck, light adjustment marks in scroll and central rev.; very few handling marks, the only ones worth mention being two short pin scratches in left obv. field. One for date collectors. Finer than the Gilhousen "Rio Rancho" coin at \$2,100. **(Photo)**
- 362 1812. Another B. 1-A, **Better than Extremely Fine**, orange toning, lustrous, some details nearer to AU; mostly well struck. Minimal handling marks. One for date or type collectors. **(Photo)**  
This from the later die state with crack from wing to r. border.
- 363 1812. Wide "5 D" B. 1-B, **nearer to AU than to EF**, mint brilliance in fields and around stars and letters. Touches of what looks like cabinet friction on both sides. Fewer bag marks than usual; light adjustment marks in central Reverse. A beautiful example of this final year of the design. **(Photo)**

CAPPED BUST, LIBERTY FACING LEFT — LARGER HEAD  
1813-1829

## EXTREMELY RARE 1813

- 364 1813. B. 1-B., Bought as "Borderline Unc.," this is difficult to grade; the surfaces are brilliant and virtually free of signs of handling, suggesting any grade above choice AU, while some of the highest points are weak enough to suggest EF or better. **An acceptable compromise grade might be AU**, but we feel we may be undervaluing the coin and confusing weak striking with wear. **Grade it as you will, it is a beautiful piece and far above average for the date**, finer than the Gilhousen "Rio Rancho" example at \$2,600, finer than Beck 397-8, and in a class with Gibson 112, Beck 391-2, Beck 395, Bell II 595, or lot 1907 of our 1974 GENA sale. The second most difficult Half Eagle design to obtain in any grade (the most difficult being V: Smaller Capped Head Left, 1829-34). **(Photo)**

Not in original monograph, preceded the 1-A which has the rev. of 1814. First S more than its own width away from wing. (R-6)

- 365 1813. B. 1-A, rev. of 1814. (R-5) **Extremely Fine, bold strike, lustrous**, with faint traces of old cleaning and completely unimportant handling marks, mostly on obv.; light rev. adjustment marks. Finer than the Miles, Austin, Ruby III, and our Washington D.C. sale examples, among many others; comparable to Ullmer 441 (graded AU with rim dent) at \$2,400. **(Photo)**

First S close to wing, less than its own width away. Obv. cracked from rim to end of bust.

## EXTREMELY RARE 1814/13 OVERDATE



- 366 1814/13. The brightly lustrous surfaces suggest **About Unc. Plus**, as do most details; other details are more like Ex. Fine. Many light obv. adjustment marks, a couple of inconsequential bag marks. Considerably superior to the Gilhousen coin; for some reason, **none lately offered in superior condition.** Much rarer than the 1813 in all grades. **(Photo)**  
Only the one variety. Early state, after recutting faded out within 5 D., but before the heavy clash marks occurred.

RARE AND CHOICE 1814/13  
FINEST OFFERED IN YEARS

- 367 1814/13. **Brilliant borderline Unc.**, **Frosty**, with rich orange-red toning, excellent surfaces, light handling marks mostly on rims, plain bag mark before forelock, two tinier ones on truncation, no others worth mention. **It is possible this piece should be**



graded full mint state and the apparent rub on highest points attributed not to cabinet friction (which was our first thought) but to a sojourn in a mint sack following striking which failed to bring up these unusually high relief details in as perfect impression as the rest. **It is certain that nobody before ever questioned this piece's full mint status, and nobody is ever again likely to do so.** No equal specimen offered in years. (Photo)

Same dies, later state: extremely severe clash marks from shield in central obv., lighter clash marks from wing tips, scroll and claws in various parts of field, lighter rev. clash marks.

- 368 1818. B. 2-B. (R-6) Just about Good, with a "sweated" look; loop removed. This should go to that large cent collector who is trying to amass a set of "Non Finest Knowns". A curiosity, to say the least; space filler for a well known rarity. (Photo)  
First star far from bust, STATES OF one word.

**SUPERB AND RARE 1818  
"BLUNDERED DIE"**



- 369 1818. B. 3-C. (Higher in the R-6 range.) "Blundered Die": 5 D over 50. Brilliant Unc., frosty, sharply struck; virtually free of bag marks or handling marks aside from one small shallow rim nick over R. One of possibly 4 or 5 uncirculated examples known from these dies; worth a sizable premium as a blundered die, as well as an excellent example of this rare date. Ex Col. E.H.R. Green, 1942, pictured over listings in the Flanagan, Bell, Hall, etc., auctions in the 1940's. Nothing equal to this offered since 1963. (Photo)

**TWO EXAMPLES OF THE  
EXCESSIVELY RARE ISSUE OF 1820**



- 370 1820. Flat based 2, large letters. B. 2-B. Difficult to grade, this piece has plenty of mint lustre, surface overall suggesting a grade of Borderline Almost Unc.; highest design elements not properly brought up, some details are of better than EF sharpness. Possibly an acceptable compromise grade would be EF. Light pin scratch before chin, tiny bag mark on M, no other nicks or dents worth mention. Well above average for this rare and very popular date. Earlier auction history unknown. Rather similar to lot 542 of our Washington, D.C. sale last February, in which the comment was made that no others had been auctioned in recent years in any grade, and the variety was "more difficult to find than quite a few others rated as R-6". (Photo)

Last star recut. Die file marks slant up to border between 7th and 8th stars. Rev. E in STATES high; middle line of each stripe weak.



- 371 1820. Another B. 2-B. Sharpness of VF or better, bright, with a "Sweated" look from decades of service as a watch fob or the like; evidence of very skillful removal of a loop at top edge, not visible from either side. Ex lot 188, "Numismatic Enterprises" Gold Sale, Oct. 13, 1965, where laconically described as "VF, rare". (Photo)

**TWO EXAMPLES OF THE EXCESSIVELY RARE ISSUE  
OF 1823**



- 372 1823. Only the one variety. Obtained with the West Coast grade of "BU, rub." this has some mint lustre, some light handling marks including a couple of tiny sharp nicks on either side, some details of almost full mint sharpness, others weaker; the overall appearance is AU, though it was evidently not in circulation for more than a few days. We have not been able to trace this piece's earlier auction history if any, though it is similar overall to Beck 404, Wolfson-Miles 356, WGC 371, and the Gilhousen-"Rio Rancho" coin (lot 148) at \$7,100. No really finer one offered in years. (Photo)



- 373 1823. Another, same dies. Marked "VF", this has rev. sharpness well above that level, obv. well below it. Under a glass, fields and obv. device show evidence of extensive skillful repairs, far more on obv., evidently for removal of scratches. (Photo)

**THE VERY RARE 1825/21  
1 OF POSSIBLY 20 KNOWN**



- 374 1825/21. B. 2-A. (R-6) About Unc., lustrous, with some rich orange tone overlying faint and really

trivial evidence of old cleaning; sharp strike, many details of full original sharpness, reverse virtually free of handling marks, obv. with very few, none really worth mention, though for identification purposes, we cite a short pin scratch on jaw before ear, a shorter one above second star. Earlier auction history unknown, but by elimination we believe it to be either lot 1688, 1954 ANA Convention Sale, or Dunham 2098 (1941)-the catalogues are not available for checking. It is actually finer than the cleaned nicked up WGC 373, Shapiro 978 (rim dent over F), or the obviously cleaned piece in the 1974 ANA Convention Sale, lot 1908, at \$9,000! It is bracketed in grade with Forrest 211 and the Wolfson-Miles-Delp coin. We are still under the impression that **fewer than 20 specimens survive in all**, including the two proofs, at least two and possibly as many as four with claims to unc. grade, the rest (aside from those mentioned above) being of lower grade than the present coin. **An excellent specimen of one of the more difficult dates. (Photo)**

## THE SUPERB AND EXCESSIVELY RARE ISSUE OF 1826



- 375 **1826. B-1-A. Brilliant Unc.**, frosty, almost though not quite free of handling marks or bag marks; well struck except in central obv. and a few much smaller rev. areas, but above average strike even so; minute rim nick above R. Much finer than Beck 405 (which had initials removed from rev. fields), Miles 248, or the cleaned 1974 GENA piece at \$12,000. **EQUAL TO THE 1967 SCHULMAN-KREISBERG COIN REAPPEARING AS NIEWOEHNER 559 AT \$30,000.** Earlier auction history unknown, though this is possibly from Oct. 1972 "Quality Sales" offering. **One for perfectionist type collectors. (Photo)**

## SMALLER CAPPED HEAD LEFT, 1829-34



- 376 **1831. Small D. rev. of 1830. B-1. (High R-6). Some details Ex. Fine, others nearer to VF; lustrous surfaces with rich red-orange tone, few bag marks, none worth mention except for one small nick left of 5. Overall grade is EF or at worst a hair's breadth short of it. Considerably finer than the Dunham-Ellisberg "H.R. Lee" coin in New Netherlands 49th sale, lot 383, or than the Baldenhofer specimen; superior to Gilhausen 359, which was poorly cleaned; no recent auction records of this type. The Wolfson-Miles coin, the Ullmer specimen (at \$6,500) and the "Rio Rancho" example (also at \$6,500, and overall not as fine as that here offered) were all from the commoner Large D reverse. (Photo)**

CLASSIC HEAD LIBERTY FACING LEFT  
NO MOTTO ON REVERSE  
1834-1838

## RARE 1834 PROOF

- 377 **1834. No motto. Plain 4. First Head (large wide truncation), large 4. B. II-4. This is a Brilliant Proof** which reached circulation long enough to acquire many nicks, from small to microscopic, on fields, devices and rims; it retains the sharpness and about 50% of the original blazing proof surfaces. Die of Melish 1961, which appears to have been the most recent auction record for a proof of this variety (1956). **Extremely rare, more so than the proofs of variety II-1. (Photo)**  
Closely spaced date, 8 4 low; rev. of II-2. A joins arrow; earliest die state, without any of the cracks at 3rd through 6th stars.
- 378 **1834. First Head, plain-4. Breen II-1. Very Fine plus, many details close to Ex. Fine,** though with usual obv. central weakness, as struck. Traces of mint lustre. Very light bag marks, and fine hairlines visible under high magnification. **(Photo)**  
Curved date, rather widely spaced. Rev. A's clear of wing and arrow.
- 379 **1834. Another Breen II-1. A strong Fine or better in sharpness.** Light bag marks, none serious enough to single out for further description.
- 380 **1834. Second head. B II-8 (R-3). Very Fine.** Traces of lustre. Light bag marks, none of these of noteworthy importance. Of interest to variety and type collectors alike (the second head is really a distinctive type coin). **(Photo)**  
Triple cut 4 (planned at right top of upright), the 4 with long base. Rev. leaf distant from U and A's of AMERICA free of wing tip and arrow head, respectively.
- 381 **1835. First Head with narrow, short end to truncation. Extremely Fine in sharpness.** Microscopic hairlines. Rim faintly bruised in region of first star. Nice central details for this type. **(Photo)**  
Rev. leaf distant from U, middle leaf group droops.
- 382 **1836.3 B-4. Brilliant Lustrous About Uncirculated.** Sharply defined strike. Adjustment file marks on rev. rim. A couple of microscopic contact marks on obv. rim and even smaller scattered hairlines. A handsome specimen. **(Photo)**  
Date with tall 1 and rather closely spaced; one denticle above 7th star is too short. Rev. first A in AMERICA barely free of wing, final A distant from arrow head.
- 383 **1836. B-4. Another. Extremely Fine, reverse more like AU.** Considerable mint lustre. Some customary flattening of obv. details, as struck. A few tiny contact marks around rims and only microscopic hairlines.
- 384 **1836. Large date, tall 1. B-10. Some details Ex. Fine,** others VF, surfaces with mint lustre and minor bag marks suggesting a grade between VF and EF. **(Photo)**  
Obv. widely spaced date, cracked similarly to B-2; rev. widely spaced 5 D; this D repunched; small period after UNITED. (About midway between wing and D); first S too high; extra serif left of top of F; R minutely above E-I; with large detached berry; cracks similar to B-1. Rarity level unknown but doubtless very high, as this is the first one we have seen.
- 385 **1837. B-2. Head of 1836, double forelock. Nearly Extremely Fine.** Considerable remaining lustre. Apparently rubbed on obv. with polishing cloth. A couple of tiny nicks on obv. rim, otherwise nothing more than the usual light bag marks. Very scarce, a date becoming increasingly difficult to find. **(Photo)**  
Large date closely spaced. Rev. wide 5 D with large S; A's of AMERICA free of wing tip and arrowhead, respectively.



**SUPERB 1838 D  
TIED FOR FINEST KNOWN TO US**



- 386 **1838 D. Brilliant Unc.**, as sharp an impression as we have ever seen, though the design is not brought up on wingtips or a couple of minute details on curls. Small slightly granular area before nose and lips, apparently from foreign matter adhering to die, as seen on some other examples of this date. Almost though not completely free of bag marks, mostly on rims and all far too tiny to be worth describing. **An incredible example tied for finest known to us.** Auction history of this piece is unknown; auction records at this grade level are very few; WGC 497; "Num. Enterprises" Oct. 1965, lot 198; Austin 1049; our 1973 GENA sale, lot 482; **finer than the scuffed example in "Rio Rnacho" 153 at \$6,600.** Neither George Walton (the Dahlonega specialist) nor R. L. Miles could find one above AU. (Photo) Only the one variety (the second pair of dies remained in the vault unused and succumbed to rust, according to Archives documents

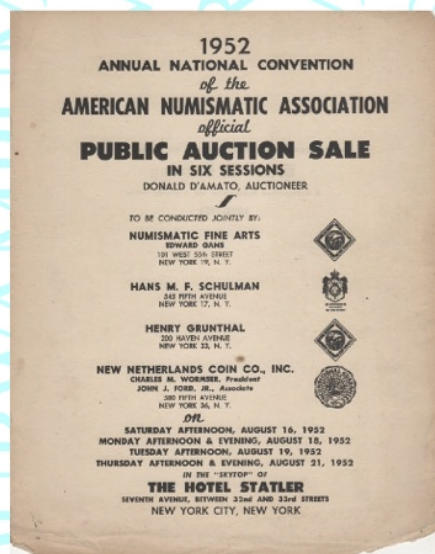
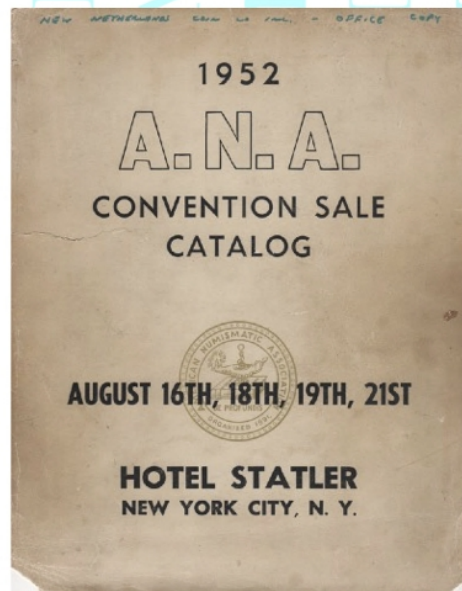
cited by R. W. Julian). Intermediate die state, the berry now gone; with the light crack through MTRIC, but the recutting on bases of 183 can still be seen.

**ANOTHER CHOICE 1838 D**

- 387 **1838 D. Another.** Same die state, similar striking quality. **Borderline Unc., brilliant, sharp**, almost free of bag marks as preceding; faint traces of old cleaning. This should bring nearly as much as preceding; by itself it would have shown up as one of the outstanding specimens of the date, and it will make a breathtaking display as an exceptional example of the first year of issue and the only Classic Head from this mint. (Photo)
- 388 **1838. B-1. Extremely Fine.** Considerable lustre. Nicely struck. Only light, insignificant bag marks. Small compact 5 (also comes with open large 5), broad leaves, heavy claws, large arrow-heads, TES closely spaced.
- 389 **1838 C. B-2. Very Fine or better overall**, although some regions of less sharp detail (such as eagle's wings) are inherent in the strike of this typical Charlotte mint product. Considerable lustre. Light bag marks. First C-mint half eagle and **One of only 17,179 struck.** (Photo) Small C mintmark above date. State II: die lapping has removed berry from between reverse leaves.

**END OF SESSION I**

Office Copy ANA 1952 WB's copy.



|     |         |     |  |
|-----|---------|-----|--|
| 130 | Hide    | 582 | Half Eagles. 1796/95. Small eagle. Almost Extremely Fine, but with slight indications of handling, and a partly    |
| 42  | Cork    | 583 | roughened planchet upon parts of the reverse. Lists at \$110.00 in Fine, and \$200.00 Uncirculated in the          |
| 38  | "       | 584 | Guidebook, V. Scarce.  |
| 43  | Cork    | 585 | 1800. Brilliant Uncirculated, Fully lustrous, and with the reverse die broken twice on the rim. In spite of a very |
| 35  | Dickens | 586 | few unimportant defects, this splendid example is well worth the \$75.00 it lists at in the Guidebook.             |
| 30  | Cork    | 587 | 1804. Large 8, under a smaller and more neatly defined numeral. Almost Uncirculated. The reverse die broken        |
| 12  | Felt    | 588 | twice. A bright, and attractive coin.  |
|     |         | 589 | 1805. Almost perfect Uncirculated. Worth \$50.00 so.   |
|     |         | 590 | 1807. Head in round cap. Abt. Uncirculated. A remarkably clean and desirable specimen.                             |
|     |         |     | 1810. Large date. Extremely Fine and lustrous.   |
|     |         |     | 1811. Large 5. A shade better than Very Fine, but with a few unimportant defects, including a very light scratch   |
|     |         |     | or two in the left obverse field. Rather scarce.   |
|     |         |     | 1834. New type, no motto over eagle. Impaired Proof. Mostly brilliant, but unfortunately mishandled.               |
|     |         |     | 1880 "S" Uncirculated, but with the usual "Bar Handling."  |



- 4153 1915. Another. Fine.  
4154 **Half Eagles.** 1834. Plain 4. Abt. Very Fine.  
Slight obverse rim nick.  
4155 1835. Fine.  
4156 1835. Another. Abt. Fine. One or two unimpor-  
tant rim nicks.  
4157 1840 "O" Liberty head with coronet: Smaller

Letter to WB from Sholley, reply: master die.

CRAIG SHOLLEY  
109 BIG SPRING AVE  
NEWVILLE, PA 17241

DEAR MR BREEN,

I AM CURRENTLY DOING SOME  
RESEARCH ON THE MASTER DIES  
FOR THE \$5 LIBERTY W/M SERIES  
AND WAS WONDERING IF YOU WERE  
AWARE OF ANY INFO IN THIS AREA.

OF PARTICULAR INTEREST WOULD BE  
THE NUMBER OF MASTER DIES USED  
FOR THE SERIES. MY OWN PRELIMINARY  
RESEARCH INDICATES 1 MASTER DIE  
FOR MOST OF THE 1800'S - 07.  
WOULD YOU CONCUR?

REGARDS,

Craig B. Sholley



Box 352, Berkeley CA 94701  
July 7, 1991

Craig Sholley  
109 Big Spring Ave.  
Newville, PA 17241

Dear Mr. Smolley:

It would help if you could be a little more specific about the kind of research you are doing into half eagle master dies.

The number of master dies used for any denomination has not been public record. The sequence in earlier US coins: master die, working hubs, working dies, struck coins. From a new master die several identical hubs would follow over the years as needed.

Before we can discuss this with all the necessary clarity we have to agree on terminology. In the Mint's earliest years, master dies were not in use. The dies of 1792-3 were all hand cut except for Liberty Cap cents, which used a device punch by Joseph Wright. Beginning in 1794, Robert Scot worked either in intaglio to create a device matrix from which a device punch could be raised, or in cameo to create the device punch directly on steel. (Which one may be undecidable; several successive device punches from a single matrix may be indistinguishable.) Certainly John Reich's device punches of 1807 and later in all denominations were raised from matrixes, into which LIBERTY had been punched; in practice, each working die required hand retouching, including often strengthening LIBERTY. Contrariwise, incuse mottoes on reverse, in all denominations above the cent from 1798 on, must have been cut or punched individually into the device punch.

So far as I know the tally runs as follows. 1795-1807: One obv. device punch. One small eagle device punch, followed by several heraldic eagle device punches differing in shields. 1807-12: One obv. and one rev. device punch. We don't get to master dies (properly so called) in half eagles until about 1840, after which the changes become very hard to see. I cannot yet add anything to the account of these in my Encyclopedia.

I hope this helps.

Blessings,

## Gold New Varieties ms.

1807 Bust left. My number 5-D is A-8\*; Adams lists also a number 9\* having the same obv. and a rev. with leaf farther from U, lower arrow beyond C, crack from rim to scroll passing through middle of E in STATES. None seen.

1813. The other variety claimed by Woodin and Adams has been located. In value 5 is plainly recut; first S much nearer wing; claws more curved

25

than usual, that at farthest right extending into feathers; first S wholly above E, whereas on the usually seen variety first S is partly right of E. A clash mark has distorted UM. (Thanks, Harry Bass)

1814/15. This is very rarely seen with plain overdate; usually only faint trace of one corner of 3 shows. Rev. Faint crack through MER, which also shows on the latest 1813's.

1820. Mrs. Norweb reports a specimen muling my obv. 1 and rev. C. It is doubtless exceedingly rare.

1820 ~~2-B~~ is Adams 3\*; 3-C is Adams 6\*; 4-D is A-2\*; 4-E is A-1\*.

Adams describes as number 5\* what would be obv. 3 with rev. D in my notation, and refers to Jewett 869. I have ~~not~~ not had opportunity to check this.

Adams describes as number 7\* what would be obv. 3 with rev. E in my notation, citing H.O.M. Granberg as then owner. Not verified.

Adams describes as number 8\* a new variety of type III: first star closer to bust than on any other square base 2 die; curl above space between 2 and O; rev. "small 5D. S of STATES overhangs S of PLURIBUS." This probably means S above S and space to right. Not illustrated.

1821. 1-A ~~is~~ is A-2\*: "first 6<sup>th</sup> star points left of first fold of cap."

1821 3-A is A-1\*: "6<sup>th</sup> star points directly at first fold of cap."

1822. Adams claims that one Wiatt (nowhere else named) owned a 4th.

1823. Obv. description should read "First star nearly touches bust, almost as close..." and "On heavy strikes, 8<sup>th</sup> star practically touches both cap and border."

1825. Obv. 2 should read in addition: Foot of digit shows at bottom r. of 5; 3rd, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12th stars recut.

1832 Twelve Stars. The 5th example came originally from Stickney 674, holed between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> stars; distant period.

1834 Motto. I-1 is A-2A\*; I-2 is A-2\*; A-1\* is supposedly obv. 1 with



new reverse with arrow pointing directly to center of A. This has not been verified. The arrow points to r. tip of left foot of A on all so far seen.

1834 I-3, with crosslet 4, does come with a rev. different from foregoing; lowest arrow points to left tip of left foot of A, middle arrow to left foot of I (on the other rev. it is between IC), first A much farther from wing, period lower than on the other die. Compare Grant Pierce 379.

~~1834~~ 1834 XI-3 is A-7\*; II-<sup>5</sup>~~4~~ is A-9\*; II-9 is A-5\* and this appears to have the reverse die of II-6. Upper two pairs of leaves disconnected from claw; later shows cracks from wingtip to border at r., and through STATES.

1836-5 has the same reverse die that was later used on 1838-1. Close TES.

1837-2 develops a small lump or chip in die (rust pit?) r. of final A.

1837-3 has date pin punches as on quarter eagles and half dimes. IT recut at left; period away from D; crack ~~in~~ develops through tops of AME.

1838-D. The variations alluded to result from die wear; recutting on crack develops through tops of MERICA. bases of 18 faded out; Only the one pair of dies was actually used; the second pair, according to R.W. Julian, was kept in the vault and rusted unused.

## 1816 Mint fire; Mickley dies letter.

From Denver Mint to BV's records:

TD Denver Mint News Letter February 1994: 1816 MINT FIRE. The mill-house and the adjoining brick-house burned down. The mill-house was replaced by a large brick building with a 10HP steam engine in the basement. That powerful engine, purchased in England, drove the rolling presses.

TD: Mint Watchmen works from 6:00PM-5:00AM will particularly "examine the department of the engine and all the rooms where the fire has been on the preceding day." The rules state if a fire is spotted the Watchman required to ring the alarm bell. Inside the mint fire was carefully regulated when it was necessary to transport the fire from one part of the Mint to another was done with a dark lantern but not an open candle. The Watch-man is required to ring the yard bell every hour on the hour and send the watchdog immediately after ringing the bell.

WB letter.

From pages 2-3 of that manuscript volume I quote: the following; punctuation and spelling as in the original:

"In digging out the rubbish from the cellar of the Mint which was destroyed in 1815, a small vault was found under the pavement bricked up with the exception of a small hole, and in tearing away the wall a number of the dies were found in this inclosure, there were about one bushel, they were picked out by workmen and finally sold as old steel to a worker in this metal. Some time after their disposition Mr. James [sic] J. Mickley hearing of them endeavoured to obtain them, but most of them had been worked over, they being of the very best kind of steel, a number of them are now in his cabinet, among which is that very scarce number, the halfpenny of 1811."

The account contains minor inaccuracies: ~~though the Mint~~ <sup>Mint</sup> ~~was inactive~~ <sup>for most of 1815</sup>, the fire took place in January 1816, and the excavations followed later that year. Mickley's given name was Joseph, not James; and "halfpenny" is an obvious misnomer. Nevertheless, I do not doubt the main outlines of the story. At the time, he was a boy of 17. The Mint fire did not destroy the Mint proper, nor any cellar in it, only ~~an~~ outbuildings including the shed where the rolling mills and planchet cutters were housed; this is why no gold and silver were coined in 1816, and no gold in 1817.<sup>158-60</sup> This event served as an excuse for a thorough and general housecleaning, rebuilding, and remodeling of buildings and machinery.<sup>1578-8</sup>



## C-Mint 1837.

BV archives:

+++++  
ARDM 1913

p.8 San Francisco Mint new Superintendent Thadeus W. H. Shanahan succeeds Frank A. Leach whom served between August 1897 and November 1907 becoming Director Of The Mint. Having resigned latter position in 1909 was reappointed in 1912 as Superintendent Of The Mint to fill a vacancy caused by the death of Edward Sweeney.

Denver Mint Frank Downer gone (retired to San Diego) Thomas Anear succeeded him. F. Downer held position since September 3, 1902.

Assay Office Charlotte closed June 30 1913. Congress failed to make provisions for support beyond that date, such pieces of equipment were valuable for further use were shipped to other institutions.

As for the Charlotte Mint in November 1835 Levi Woodbur [bv check sp] was notified by Secretary Of The Treasury Samuel McComb who had been appointed to select site for Charlotte Branch, he had purchased from William Carson and F. L. Smith a full share containing near four acres of land for \$1,500.00. Proposals for erecting of building were advertised for in the Charlotte Journal, Washington Globe, Richmond Enquirer and the North Carolina Standard. Contract was awarded to Perry Ligon of Raleigh [bv check sp] North Carolina on October 15, 1835, at \$29,800.00 to be completed by January 1 1837. The cost of machinery, to be furnished by the Director Of The Mint at Philadelphia is estimated at \$15,000.00. Coleman Sellers & Sons, Phila.

Furnished the steam engine shaft and etc. for \$8,297.00 while Merric, Agnew & Tyler draw benches and etc. for \$6,690.00 this equipment was shipped to Charlotte in April of 1837. Considerable difficulty occurred in transporting the heavy machinery to Charlotte, and the steam engine was not set up until the middle of August. John H. Wheeler of North Carolina was appointed as the first Superintendent. J. H. Gibbon and John R. Bolton of Pennsylvania were appointed Assayer and Coiner respectively. In December of 1837 the Secretary Of The Treasury was advised as the deposits of gold had amounted to \$130,600.00 and the coinage at \$84,165.00. The dies for this coinage were made at Phila. Mint and in transporting them the Director of Phila. Mint urged Col. Wheeler, the Superintendent to hasten the coinage, and mentioned that although the dies were dated 1838, there was no objection to using them in 1837. The reason given for this haste was that the equipment might be tested and particularly the operation of the coinage press by steam power, which was regarded as in some degrees as experimental. The application of steam power to coinage was first made in this country at the Phila. Mint in 1836.

On the night of July 27 1844, it was nearly destroyed by fire, which occurred in the Coining Room, and nearly consumed the entire building. The machinery was seriously injured but the records being stored in the vault, were not injured. Mr. Caldwell the Superintendent reported that evidently the fire was the work of a thief. As his living apartments [bv confirm] had been entered and articles stolen.

The present building was authorized by Act of March 3, 1845, and was completed at a cost of \$31,572.97, and occupied in 1846, and used for coinage purposes until May 1861, when North Carolina entered the Confederacy and operations were suspended. The building was used during the Civil War as a Confederate hospital. In 1867 the Assay Office at Charlotte was reestablished by Act of Congress dated March 19 and was maintained as such until the close of Fiscal Year 1913.

The mint at Dahlonga [correct sp] was never reopened after the Civil War. Coinage operations were resumed at New Orleans after the Civil War, but were suspended and the coining machinery removed in 1910.

WB's annot. S May 1959 Straus.



2399 1803/2 Fine, Numerous file marks, edge cut. Still worth \$50.00. 35-37

2400 1804 Small 8 in date. Brilliant Uncirculated. Sharp strike. **PLATE** ✓ 125-150-

2401 1806 Round top 6. Very fine, light reverse edge dent. 70-

2402 1807 Head right or old type. Very Fine choice, lightly struck in the center of the coin. 60-61 CR

2403 1807 Head Left. New type. Very Fine. 60-70 PHC

2404 1808 Extremely Fine. A nice type coin. 60-70 64

2405 1810 Large date. Very Fine choice, nice iridescent toning. 60-76 JR

2406 1810 Small date, Small 5. Brilliant Uncirculated, proof surface. A superb coin but for a very noticeable mutilation by initials cut into the obverse field. Really a pity. 40-70 PHC

2407 1811 Small 5, Extremely Fine. 60-70 CR

2408 1813 Very Fine. A difficult type coin. Worth at least \$100.00. 110-

2409 1834 No Motto, plain 4. About Uncirculated. Tiny "X" scratched over head. 16 1/2

2410 1835 Very Fine, edge dent. 15-

2411 1836 Very Fine. 20-


2412 1837 Very Fine. LD 18-22 HC

2413 1838 Very Fine. (F-19 ff) EF-

2414 1839 'D' Mint-mark on the obverse. About Uncirculated choice. Sharply struck. An outstanding specimen of this rare coin. Easily worth \$125.00 or so. **PLATE** ✓ 70-130



K Jan. 1975: \_\_\_ annot.

| HALF EAGLES  |      |   |
|--|------|---|
| 363  | 1806 | Round top 6. Brilliant Uncirculated. Pale orange toning. Just about equal to the finest known even though it is not the sharpest struck. Faint adjustment marks over tip of wing and AME in AMERICA <i>no bid ok - ✓</i>        |
| 364  | 1806 | Round top 6. Attractive About Uncirculated. Nice surfaces. <i>Shore, de clnd</i>  |
| 365  | 1807 | Bust right. A beautiful Brilliant Uncirculated specimen. Not flawless due to some minor obverse nicks. Considerable proof surfaces. Ex-H. Champan, Jr., envelope and ticket with lot. <i>BIB 15</i>                             |
| 366  | 1807 | Bust right. Brilliant Uncirculated. Nice appearing variety with two unfinished leaves on stem. Scarce this choice. <i>BIA ~</i>   |
| 367  | 1807 | Bust right. Last year of this scarce type. Nice Extremely Fine with adjustment marks across center obverse. Recut 1 and 0 in date. Reverse is unmarred. <i>B9C clnd</i>   |
| CAPPED DRAPED BUST TO LEFT 1807-1812   |      |   |
|  |      |   |
| Lot No. 368  |      |   |
| 368  | 1807 | Head left (new design). Round cap. Sharp struck in pale orange gold. Brilliant Uncirculated. PLATE <i>SD</i>  |
| 369  | 1807 | Bust left as above. Design by John Reich. Brilliant Uncirculated. Very sharp struck with 5 D <i>re-cut</i> Mar-free surfaces. Ex-H. Chapman - Cost \$11.00! <i>1.15 SD ✓</i>  |
| 370  | 1807 | Bust left. Just a shade from the Gem category. Choice Brilliant Uncirculated. Lovely mint bloom. Very scarce this nice. Sharp struck. <i>SD ~</i>   |
| 371  | 1807 | Bust left. Brilliant Uncirculated. Struck in pale yellow gold. Beautiful surfaces. Worth a record bid. <i>AV+ SD</i>  |
| 372  | 1808 | 8 over 7 Brilliant Uncirculated. Attractive pale orange toning. Equal to the finest. <i>2A</i>  |
| 373  | 1808 | 8 over 7 Deep planchet flaw <i>to point</i> fourth star. Die break bisects obverse from second star through face, cap to rim and another die break through tenth star. Choice Very Fine. <i>Source. For seen &amp; break 2A</i> |
| 374  | 1808 | Normal date. Brilliant Uncirculated. Sharp strike. Full mint lustre with hardly any handling marks. <i>4B -</i>   |
| ALL LOTS MAY BE BID BY MAIL  |      |   |
| 27   |      |   |

# HALF EAGLES

- |     |      |   |
|-----|------|---|
| 375 | 1808 | Normal date. Wide 5 D. Brilliant Uncirculated. Attractive toning and clean surfaces. Very scarce this nice. <b>43 -</b>   |
| 376 | 1808 | Choice Uncirculated. Pale orange toning. Not quite perfect due to minor handling marks and tiny rim nick between TA. Sharp strike. <b>14 R6 ~</b>                             |
| 377 | 1809 | 9 over 8. Brilliant Uncirculated with full original mint bloom. <b>✓</b>  |
| 378 | 1809 | 9 over 8. Brilliant Uncirculated. Pale orange toning. A beautiful specimen. <b>✓</b>  |
| 379 | 1809 | 9 over 8. A faint rub away from choice Uncirculated. Ex-Chapman. Cost - \$8.50! Original envelope and ticket enclosed. <b>14 62 ef</b>  |
| 380 | 1810 | Small date, tall 5. <del>Choice</del> <b>Small</b> Uncirculated. Variety with E in STATES above B. Rarity 6. Sharp strike. <b>3D R7-</b>                                      |
| 381 | 1810 | Small date, tall 5. Choice Uncirculated. Pale orange toning. Faint die break at date and light adjustment marks barely noticeable over NITED. Very scarce type. <b>3D R7-</b> |
| 382 | 1810 | Large date, large 5. Reddish orange toned choice Uncirculated with very few handling marks. <b>borderline</b>   |
| 383 | 1810 | Large date, large 5. Choice About Uncirculated. Nice lustre and boldly struck.  |
| 384 | 1810 | Large date, large 5. 5 has closed loop and is probably recut. Choice Extremely Fine <b>VF. ef</b>   |
| 385 | 1811 | Small 5. Brilliant Uncirculated. Beautiful yellow frosty gold strike. Weakness on part of edge above head <b>due to die failure</b> . <b>✓</b>                                |
| 386 | 1811 | Large 5. Brilliant Uncirculated. Nice pale orange bloom. Faint traces of clash die, especially noticeable above date. Recut 5 and D. Rare and seldom seen this nice. <b>✓</b> |
| 387 | 1811 | Large 5. Nice Uncirculated with <del>faint</del> <b>fine</b> handling marks. 5 and D <del>recut</del> <b>recut</b> . <b>✓</b>   |
| 388 | 1812 | Lustrous About Uncirculated. Large date leaning to the left. Beautiful pale yellow gold toning. Ex-H Chapman - envelope and ticket enclosed. <b>13</b> <b>14 18 115</b>       |
| 389 | 1812 | Attractive About Uncirculated. Very sharp strike. <b>ef</b> <b>13</b>   |
| 390 | 1812 | Choice Extremely Fine. Nice strike. <b>ef</b> <b>13</b>   |



# HALF EAGLES

CAPPED HEAD TO LEFT 1813-1834

1A = 1/4  
1B = none



Lot No. 391

- |     |      |   |                     |
|-----|------|---|---------------------|
| 391 | 1813 | New type. Large head. Very much sought-after "type". Attractive Uncirculated with mint bloom. You have your choice of eight pieces – an unheard of opportunity!             | 1B<br>Aut           |
| 392 | 1813 | Choice Uncirculated. Attractive toning. Scarce this nice.   | 1B Aut              |
| 393 | 1813 | Brilliant Uncirculated. Light yellow gold and full mint bloom. Weak area below left wing; balance of strike sharp.  | 1A Aut+ strike      |
| 394 | 1813 | Brilliant About Uncirculated. Mint lustre.  | 1A - long           |
| 395 | 1813 | Choice About Uncirculated. Very pleasing appearance and unmarred surfaces.  | 1B ~                |
| 396 | 1813 | Brilliant About Uncirculated. Nice strike with considerable lustre still adhering.  | 1A As 393 in strike |
| 397 | 1813 | Shade from About Uncirculated. A lovely specimen. Worth a premium bid.  | 1B Af+              |
| 398 | 1813 | Sharp Extremely Fine. Very faint handling marks.  | 1B -                |
| 399 | 1814 | 4 over 3. Attractive Very Fine. Nice even wear. Many tiny surface nicks <u>visible under magnification</u> . Supposedly less than 30 specimens known. A very valuable coin. | ✓                   |



Lot No. 400

- |     |      |   |      |
|-----|------|---|------|
| 400 | 1818 | Brilliant Uncirculated. A superb specimen with full mint frost. Pale orange toning. <u>Very well struck</u> . Variety with die crack from sixth star through Liberty's head through 8 of date to the rim. No recent sales of this date in this premium condition. | ✓    |
|     |      | PLATE   | Q 2B |
| 401 | 1818 | Brilliant Uncirculated. Same variety as preceding lot, however, not quite same quality. Not as perfectly centered and does show contact with other coins; small nick on cheek and in field. A rare coin.  | Aut  |

Grade heavier.

ALL LOTS MAY BE BID BY MAIL

1/4 \*

29

RARE 1819 HALF EAGLE



Lot No. 402 *big rim nick*

1819 HALF EAGLE  
EXCESSIVELY RARE

- 402 1819 Choice Extremely Fine with considerable mint lustre. Variety with 5 D over 50 on reverse. This is one of the rarest U.S. Half Eagles and though not quite on a par with the 1815 it ranks with the classic greats in numismatics. ✓

During a fifty year period from 1890 to 1941 B. Max Mehl only offered four specimens in his famous sales. Just one more than was offered of the 1815.

Walter Breen listed five known specimens:

- (1) Wolfson (now in a Texas collection).
- (2) Eliasberg
- (3) Owner unknown, Ex-Menjou sale.
- (4) Texas collection via New Netherlands.
- (5) 1963 Kreisberg Waldorf sale. Whereabouts unknown — and now specimen number 6 from the fantastic John A. Beck Collection.

We will not venture to place any estimate on this great rarity. With the demand for super rarities we feel the coin will be a bargain regardless of what it finally sells at. PLATE



# RARE HALF EAGLES



Lot No. 403

- 403 1820 Curved-base 2, large letters. Brilliant Uncirculated with beautiful mint frost. A Gem specimen worth a record bid. PLATE *B 3C* ✓



Lot No. 404

- 404 1823 *ef-30* Choice About Uncirculated with considerable prooflike lustre. Faint rubs in field. A very scarce date and missing from most collections. PLATE *1A*



Lot No. 405

## VERY RARE 1826 HALF EAGLE

- 405 1826 Brilliant frosty Uncirculated. A superb specimen without a flaw or blemish on the obverse. Under strong magnification on reverse we note a faint thin *scratch*, invisible without use of strong glass. Possibly ten in existence. This great rarity worth a record bid. PLATE *script near below wing - but not a scratch*

ALL LOTS MAY BE BID BY MAIL

# HALF EAGLES



Lot No. 406

*fine  
a scratch in the*

- 406 1830 Small 5 D. Choice About Uncirculated with prooflike lustre. A real spectacular coin with hardly any bag marks. Greatly in demand. PLATE

## REDUCED SIZE U.S. HALF EAGLES



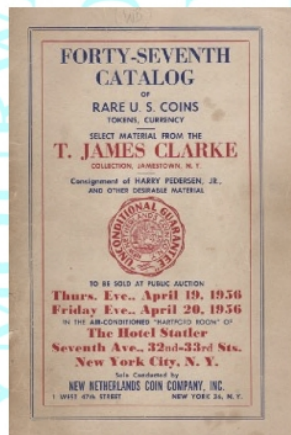
Lot No. 407

*II-4*

- 407 1834 Plain 4. Classic head type without motto. *sharp* *for holding* ~~Gem~~ Uncirculated. Die crack connects rim to second through fourth stars on left. Truly scarce this nice. PLATE
- 408 1834 Plain 4. no motto. Choice About Uncirculated. Traces of proof-like surface. An attractive specimen with traces of mint lustre. *II-4*
- 409 1834 Plain 4. no motto. Choice About Uncirculated. *sharp* Mint lustre. Very sharp strike. *II-8/2*
- 410 1834 Plain 4. no motto. Sharp Extremely Fine. Considerable mint lustre. *II-8*
- 411 1834 Plain 4. no motto. ~~Choice~~ Very Fine.
- 412 1834 Plain 4. 1835 and 1836 — attractive Very Fine. The lot of 3 different dates.
- 413 1836 Sharp Very Fine; and 1837 evenly circulated Fine-Very Fine. The lot of 2 pieces. *85* *81* ✓
- ✓ 414 1838 Brilliant Uncirculated. Compact small 5 variety. Lovely frosty surfaces. Very scarce. *8-1*
- 415 1838 Choice Very Fine. Sharp struck. Small 5 D variety. *D1*
- 416 1839-C Mint mark above date. Low mintage. Very Fine. *nickel*
- 417 1839-D Mint mark above date. Very scarce. Very Fine. *B2* ✓



NN #47 WB's annot. copy.



- 759 Another. Close to choice Unc. Minute reverse nick upon eagle's left wing.  
760 **Half Eagles.** 1834. Plain 4 in date; date partially recut. Abt. V. Fine. Reverse border nick.  
761 1854. Ex. Fine; lustrous. The Peake specimen was only Very Fine.  
762 1861. Not quite VF; few unimportant defects.  
763 1880 and 1905 "S". Fine and about V. Fine. 2 Pcs.  
764 1895. Strictly Very Fine. Slightly proof-like in appearance.  
765 1906 "D". First year of coinage from Denver. Almost perfect. Unc. Hardly a sharp impression, but a clean coin retaining considerable mint bloom. A popular "type" item!  
766 1909 "S". Pratt Indian head design. Very Fine. Scarce; not in the Peake offering.  
767 1911 and 1913. V. Fine and Abt. Unc. Last desirable. 2 Pcs.  
768 **Three Dollars Gold.** 1854. First year of issue. Very Fine.  
769 1854 "C". Fine to V. Fine. Slight evidence of reverse handling. An underrated

### Half Eagles

- 1431 **1795**. Small eagle. Close date. Adams 6. First year of issue. Strictly Ex. Fine. Lightly toned; two or three minute indications of handling. A very popular type coin, now selling around \$250.00.
- 1432 **1798**. Heraldic eagle. Large date; **fourteen stars upon reverse**. Adams 3; shattered rev. Strictly Ex. Fine, but showing "bag handling". A very rare type coin, which will list in the next Standard Catalog at a minimum of \$150. Very Fine. It is as much a "type" as the thirteen and fifteen star dollars of 1799. Lacking in such famous and important collections as Cleneay (1890), Winsor (1895), Smith (1906), Wilson (1907), Jewett (1909), Earle (1912), Gregory (1916), Jackman (1918), Jenks (1921), Ten Eyck (1922), among others.
- Plate**
- 1433 **1806**. Pointed 6; stars 8x5. Ex. Fine plus, but weakly struck from worn dies so that center of devices do not show. Adjustment marks upon obverse. Ex Elder; marked "Unc." by Mr. Clarke.
- 1434 **1807**. Head right. Small date; large stars upon reverse. Brilliant Unc. Weakly struck at right wing of eagle; faint adjustment or file marks upon the obverse. Shattered obverse die. Like lot 1432 above, from dealer MacAllister. The 1807 Head r. Half Eagle also comes with large date and stars, and small date, small stars. These will all be listed in future editions of the Standard Catalog.
- 1435 **1807**. Large head l., as on 1808-12. The design of E. Lugio Persico, executed by John Reich. Choice Unc. Adjustment marks upon rev. border; few minor defects. Attractive. Ex Elder.
- 1436 **1808**. Perfect date; 5 D. distant. About Unc. Obverse border file marks; some russet tarnish. Desirable. Ex Elder.
- 1437 **1810**. Large date; large wide 5 D. Pale greenish gold, evidently with native silver content. Uncirculated. Brilliant, but with traces of the usual handling and adjustment marks. Guidebook at \$75.00.
- 1438 **1813**. New type; larger head (continuing to 1829, in which year the Kneass improvements appeared on the gold coins and half dimes). Lustrous Unc. Now listed to \$110.00. Ex Elder.
- 1439 **1834**. No motto; plain 4. Also, 1839. Extremely Fine or so. Second hardly common. 2 Pcs.
- 1440 **1839** "D". Mintmark between date and bust. Better than Ex. Fine; obverse with the inevitable indications of handling. Only 18,939 reported made. Choice. Ex Bauer coll.
- 1441 **1841** "C". Close to Uncirculated; unimportant evidence of contact with other coins. A handsome first-strike on a wide planchet with wire edges. Small mintage of 21,511 pieces. Well above average. Also ex Bauer.
- 1442 **1845**. Very Fine or better; slight obv. rim bruise. (Not the variety with heavy recut date, but the commoner one.) Worth \$15.00.
- 1443 **1853** "C". Very Fine or better. Tiny rev. rim bruise.
- 1444 **1854** "D". Not quite V. Fine. Scarcer than the last.
- 1445 **1861** "D". About Extremely Fine; struck from worn dies. Odd raised border around both sides. The Dahlonega Mint was taken over by the Confederate States on April 8, 1861, after the U. S. had issued a nominal 1,597 half eagles. The CSA almost certainly coined five dollar gold pieces thereafter, as we know they had at least \$13,345. in gold bullion on hand and did coin gold dollars. Therefore, the possibility exists that this piece was actually manufactured by the Confederacy. In any case, it is a very superior specimen of an extremely rare mintmark. **Plate**
- The amount of wear on the dies (from which the above coin was made) suggests that, like the 1861 "O" Double Eagle offered earlier (lot 1421), the present coin was an emission of the CSA. There were only two half eagle obverses made for 1861 and sent to Dahlonega, which furthers our theory. For additional information see page 200, the 1954-55 Standard Catalog and our "Numisma" for July, 1954 (Vol. I, No. 2). The latter gives in particular, concrete data re the 1861 "O" Twenties.
- 1446 **1891** "CC". Ex. Fine or better. Lustrous. Popular mintmark.
- 1447 **1892** "CC". A shade closer to Unc. than the last; minute obv. rim nick. Scarce; some 82,968 coined, compared to 208,000 of the '91 "CC".
- 1448 **1912**. Indian head. Splendid wire-edged sandblast **Proof**. Only 144 struck. Valued to \$50.00.

### Three Dollar Gold Pieces

- 1449 **1854**. First year of issue. Uncirculated, or very close to it. With full mint bloom. Uncommon so nice. While the above coin has small letters in DOLLARS upon the reverse, all later dates have large letters.



## Cynics Dictionary WB's ms.

*The Jones*  
numismatics n. A scholarly veneer over competitive greed (see Five Finger Word). Subject of public delusions that identify old coins as automatically valuable. A form of the passion to own something other collectors lack. A combination of "be first in your block to have it" and "beggar your neighbor," often adding "mine's better than yours," and "I got it cheaper." *also*  
*INSET*  
I say this with the more freedom, having been a numismatic consultant for thirty-odd years. *of whom*

coin n. 1. A form of metallic power. 2. Measure of everything and nothing. 3. Solid symbol of a mathematical abstraction. 4. Game counter in business and coin collecting, worthless except when being given up: compare money, coin dealers, numismatists. 5. Means of immortalizing rulers whose subjects often would rather forget them: see numismatics. 6. Popular

322

four-letter word.

Repeat the word often enough and it sounds like "Oink, oink, oink!" (Thank you, Pat Breen.)

coincidences n. Local symmetries in the vast flux of random.

Compare causality, because, karma. The meaningful kind Jung called synchronicity [1961] may indicate common ancestry for the patterns. Vaughan [1979]:202-226 and passim. Accordingly, many religionists call them "God's sealed orders," "God's way of remaining anonymous."

"Once is an event, twice is a coincidence, thrice is a pattern." --Heuristic truism.

coin collectors n.phr. Prey of coin dealers. Potential numismatists; therefore, potential cherrypickers.

The game of numismatics is not for the ignorant or the unwary. Its motto is Caveat emptor 'Let the buyer beware.' Beware especially of promotions aimed at the general public (usually offering allegedly rare silver dollars at allegedly bargain prices); learn all you can about grading; do comparison shopping; know your dealer--and his reputation among other dealers. Before you buy anything, read Yeoman [1987] for an overview. More specialized information is in Breen [1987].

coin dealers n.phr. Apt to believe themselves prey of cherrypickers. Nevertheless, many brag to their peers about



the rarities they just cherrypicked from some walk-in yokel.

Prov. 20:14; Isaiah 24:16. Compare double standard.

Even some of the least educated display the title "Professional Numismatist", like Eeyore's tail pinned to his rump.

Their pitfalls are greed, dishonesty, and stupidity. For antidotes, see preceding.

God bless the rare exceptions.

collateral damage n.phr. What war does to innocent bystanders and the earth: nukeseek euphemism. Kidron & Smith (1983), Part Six.

collecting v. Often, addictive possession. Compare numismatics, numismatists, coin collectors, cherrypickers, coin dealers.

consequences n. 1. Generic karma. Compare causality. 2. The waves you make.

This Dictionary's? Those I hope to see: referendums held; laws improved or repealed; victimless crimes' penalties abolished; the more corrupt politicians and demagogues ousted; the more oppressive churches deserted; taboos laughed out of existence: a world worth living in. Those I fear: censorship, enemies' lies and calumnies, trumped-up charges, prison, bookburning, riots, bloodshed, civil war.

YOUR MOVE!

--Carved sidewalk graffito, Milpas St. just north of  
Cabrillo Blvd., Santa Barbara.

SEYMOURWAMPUMSEYMOURWAM  
PUMSEYMOURWAMPUMSEYMOUR  
WAMPUMSEYMOURWAMPUMSEYM  
OURWAMPUMSEYMOURWAMPUMS  
EYMOURWAMPUMSEYMOURWAMP  
UMSEYMOURWAMPUMSEYMOURW  
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